はがねのれんきんじゅつし

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

荒川 弘

Hiromu Arakawa

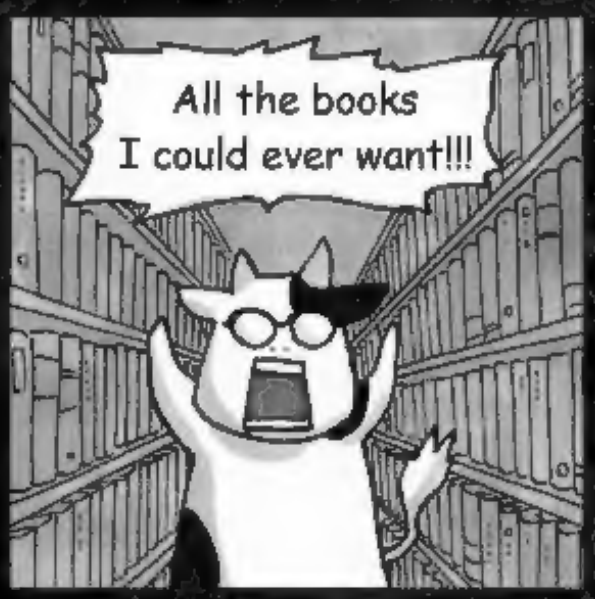
19

GANGAN COMICS

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST™

19

Story and art by
Hiromu Arakawa



If God told me, "I will grant you anything in the world that you desire—just ask for it," I would answer without hesitation, "I want Japan's National Diet Library."

—Hiromu Arakawa, 2008

Born in Hokkaido (northern Japan), Hiromu Arakawa first attracted national attention in 1999 with her award-winning manga *Stray Dog*. Her series *Fullmetal Alchemist* debuted in 2001 in Square Enix's monthly manga anthology *Shonen Gangan*.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

19

荒川弘

HIROMU ARAKAWA

鋼の錬金術師
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

CHARACTERS
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

□ウィンリィ・ロックベル

Winry Rockbell

□スカー

Scar

□オリヴィエ・ミラ・アームストロング

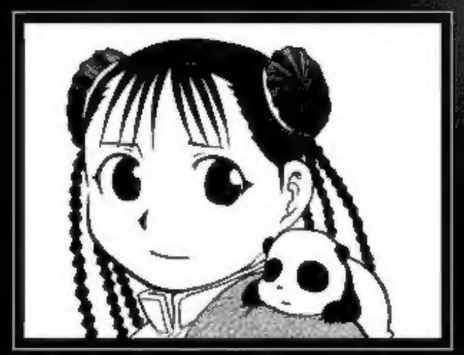
Olivier Mira Armstrong

□キング・ブラッドレイ

King Bradley

□ゾルフ・J・キンブリー

Solf J. Kimblee



□メイ・チャン

May Chang

□アルフォンス・エルリック

Alphonse Elric

□エドワード・エルリック

Edward Elric

□アレックス・ルイ・アームストロング

Alex Louis Armstrong

□ロイ・マスタング

Roy Mustang

OUTLINE
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

Using a forbidden alchemical ritual, the Elric brothers attempted to bring their dead mother back to life. But the ritual went wrong, consuming Edward Elric's leg and Alphonse Elric's entire body. At the cost of his arm, Edward was able to graft his brother's soul into a suit of armor. Equipped with mechanical "auto-mail" to replace his missing limbs, Edward becomes a state alchemist in hopes of finding a way to restore their bodies. Their search embroils them in a deadly conspiracy that threatens to take the innocence, if not the lives, of everyone involved.

Since their shocking discovery of the military's ties to the Homunculi, Ed and Al have been kept on a short leash, with Winry held hostage to buy their silence. In the snowbound Mountains of Briggs, the brothers, in a tenuous alliance with Scar, come up with a plan to get Winry out of the enemy's clutches by faking her death. But all their plotting could be for naught. Major General Armstrong, their ally at Fort Briggs, has been summoned to Central Command. Now, with the murderous alchemist Kimblee hot on their trail, Ed desperately plots their next move…

CONTENTS

Chapter 74: The Dwarf in the Flask 7

Chapter 75: The Last Days of Cselkcess 47

Chapter 76: Shape of a Person, Shape of a Stone 83

Chapter 77: The Tables Are Turned;
A New Transmutation Circle 117

Chapter 78: The Seven Deadly Sins 149

WHAT'S MORE, WHEN THE TWO TRIANGLES ARE COMBINED, ONE POINTING UP, THE OTHER DOWN, A ***HEXAGRAM*** IS FORMED.

THAT'S THE SYMBOL THAT REPRESENTS ALL OF THE FOUR ELEMENTS.

△ + ▽

ON KIMBLEE'S RIGHT HAND IS THE SYMBOL FOR THE SUN...

...AND ON HIS LEFT, THE SYMBOL FOR THE MOON.

IN OTHER WORDS, ***LIGHT*** AND ***DARK-NESS.***

SO, IF WE TAKE OUT ONE OF HIS HANDS... HE CAN'T TRANS-MUTE, RIGHT?

I THINK SO, BUT...

HIS TRANSMUTATION CIRCLE IS ACTIVATED BY PUTTING HIS PALMS TOGETHER.

...HE HAS A ***PHILOSO-PHER'S STONE.***

THAT MAKES THINGS A LOT TRICKIER...

Chapter 74
The Dwarf in the Flask

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

LT. GENERAL RAVEN?

NAW.. I DON'T REMEMBER HIM LEAVING THE FORT, SIR.

LAST I SEEN HIM, HE AND MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG WERE HEADING DOWN INTO THE LOWEST LEVEL OF THE FORT... ALONE.

PUF PUF PUF

I'M NOT SURE, SIR..

THIS PLACE CAN BE PRETTY CONFUSING, SIR.

A GUY WHO DOESN'T KNOW HIS WAY AROUND THESE TUNNELS COULD FIND HIMSELF LOST... OR WORSE.

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

HM ?

TCH!

NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE A ***GREEN-HORN*** LIKE YOU WORKING AT CENTRAL HQ.

OH !

MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG.

INTENSE...

ACTUALLY, I THINK I WAS CHOSEN FOR MY ***SPECIAL SKILLS***, MA'AM.

BZT BZT

BZT

WHAT KIND OF STRINGS DID YOU PULL?

BZT BZT

KLAK KLAK

KLAK

THEN PERHAPS WE COULD HAVE ***DINNER*** TO-GETHER...

I'LL GO... PROVIDED YOU DON'T MIND ME EATING YOU INTO BANK-RUPTCY.

YOUR TREAT?

KLAK KLAK KLAK

SO YOU'RE BOTH A COWARD AND A CHEAP-SKATE.

...SOME OTHER TIME, PERHAPS.

I HAVE A FEELING SHE REALLY ***WOULD*** BANKRUPT ME

KLAK KLAK

KLAK

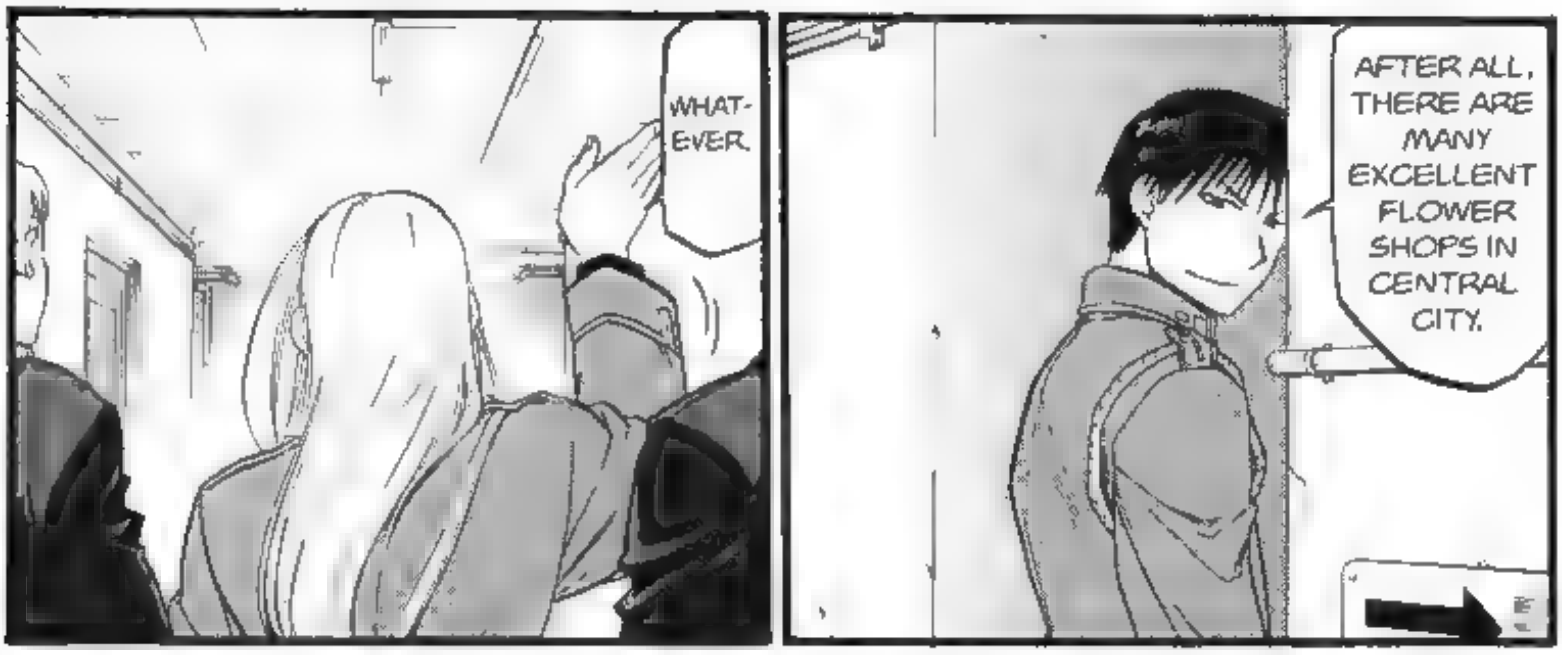
SO, MAJOR GENERAL... WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CENTRAL CITY?

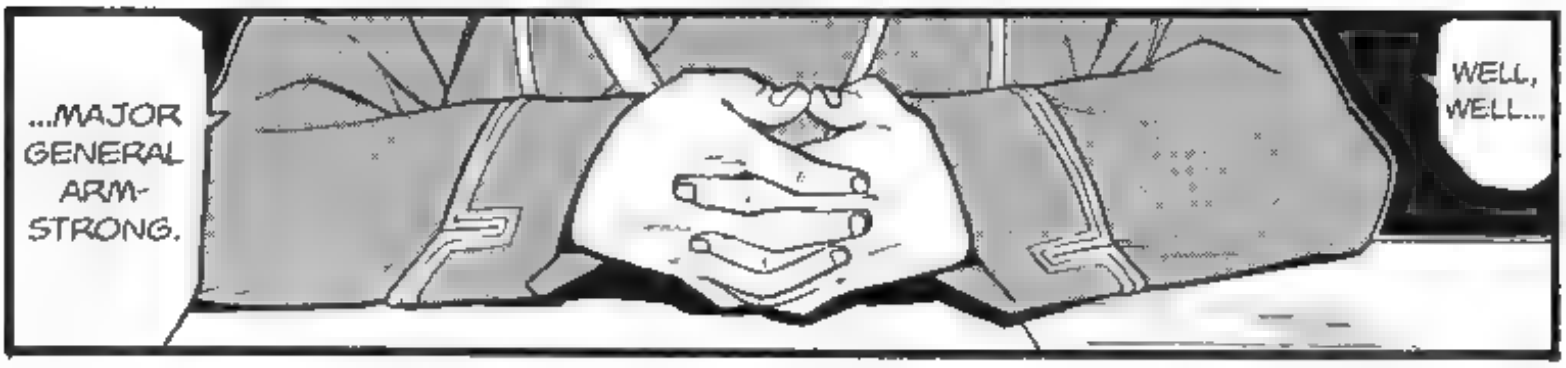
I WAS SUM-MONED BY THE PRES-IDENT.

IT MIGHT BE SOME TIME BEFORE I CAN RETURN NORTH.

KLAK KLAK

AT THE VERY LEAST, PERMIT ME TO SEND YOU A BOJQUET WORTHY OF YOUR BEAUTY, MAJOR GENERAL.


WHAT-EVER.
AFTER ALL, THERE ARE MANY EXCELLENT FLOWER SHOPS IN CENTRAL CITY.


...MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG.
WELL, WELL...

I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE DISAP-PEARANCE OF LT. GENERAL RAVEN

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH HIM?

SIR...

I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN LYING...

IT HAD TO BE DONE, SIR.

HE HAD A SMOOTH TONGUE, BUT HIS LIPS WERE LOOSE ENOUGH TO SINK A FLEET. HE WAS A LIABILITY, SIR.

WHY WOULD A MAN OF YOUR CALIBER KEEP SUCH A CARELESS FOOL BY HIS SIDE?

SO YOU KILLED HIM?

SO YOU GAVE THE ORDER?

NO, SIR. I DID IT WITH *MY OWN HANDS.*

DIG UP THE SITE IF YOU MUST

MY BLOOD-STAINED GLOVE IS BURIED WITH HIM.

WHAT DID LT. GENERAL RAVEN TELL YOU?

HE TALKED OF AN IM-MORTAL ARMY...

...THE FOUND-ING OF THIS COUN-TRY...

...THE HOMUN-CULI...

...AND ABOUT YOUR TRUE IDENTITY, SIR.

HE TOLD ME MANY THINGS THAT I NEVER ASKED HIM ABOUT OR HAD ANY REASON TO SUSPECT

AND YET YOU RESPONDED TO MY SUMMONS... AFTER EVERYTHING YOU HEARD?

YES, SIR.

TO ASK YOU TO BESTOW UPON ME THE POSITION THAT WAS OCCUPIED BY THAT FOOL, SIR.

MEH...

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE !!

WELL PLAYED !!

HAAA HA HA HA!!

VERY WELL !

I'LL GIVE YOU HIS POSI-TION

IN EXCHANGE, I'M PUTTING ONE OF MY OWN MEN IN CHARGE OF FT. BRIGGS. AGREED?

I LIKE IT !!

GULP

YOU FIGHT WELL, HUMAN !

AS YOU WISH.

I TRAINED THE BRIGGS' MEN MYSELF.

I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND THEM TO YOUR LIKING, SIR.

DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM

WELCOME, MAJOR GENERAL OLIVIER MIRA ARM-STRONG.

PLEASE... TAKE A SEAT.

DOM

DOM

DOM

DOM

DOM

DOM

DOM

DOM

DOOOOOM

UH-HUH.

SO THE MAJOR GENERAL HAS ENTERED THE ENEMY'S LAIR OUT OF HER OWN FREE WILL, SIR?

THEY SAY YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE, BUT YOUR ENEMIES CLOSER.

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE SUITS IN CENTRAL SEND A NEW GENERAL TO KEEP AN EYE ON BRIGGS.

BUT WHEN IT'S TIME TO ACT, YOU CAN COUNT ON US LETTING 'EM HAVE IT.

SNIK

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, IF THEY THINK THEY CAN COLLAR US, THEY'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING.

OUR TRUE LEADER MIGHT BE MILES AWAY, BUT WE'RE STILL THE MOST DISCIPLINED FIGHTING FORCE IN AMESTRIS. WE KEEP OUR COOL AND WE STICK TOGETHER.

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A BRIGGS SOLDIER.

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
KLATTA KLATTA
IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?
CHATTER
CHATTER
BE MY GUEST SIR.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM A LITTLE DOWN.
COLO-NEL...
SOUP

HOW'S WORK, SIR?

JUST LOOK AT ME...

CHOMP

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.

THERE ARE ALWAYS CHAL-LENGES ADAPTING TO A NEW OFFICE, SIR.

BUT THE PRESI-DENT IS VERY ORGA-NIZED, WHICH IS A BIG HELP.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

I HAVE TO RESORT TO DOING PAPER-WORK OVER LUNCH TO GET CAUGHT UP.

SINCE I WAS DE-PRIVED OF MY ASSIS-TANT...

..I DON'T LIKE WHERE THIS CON-VERSATION IS GOING.

I GUESS SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST MORE ***CAPABLE*** THAN OTHERS, SIR.

BEST OF ALL, HE DOESN'T SLACK OFF.

CHATTER

I'M ZERO FOR TWO TODAY.

THAT'S HARSH.

CHATTER

ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING RIGHT NOW, SIR?

WHY DON'T WE GO GET A BITE TO EAT SOME-TIME?

CHATTER

ZERO FOR TWO?

I JUST RAN INTO MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG FROM UP NORTH.

SHE FLAT OUT TURNED ME DOWN.

...

CHAT CHAT

AGAIN, SIR?

YUP. SHE'S AS COLD AS EVER.

SPEAKING OF THE NORTH...

TONK TONK

APPARENTLY SCAR IS UP THERE, SIR.

AND I THINK THE ELRIC BROTHERS WENT AS WELL.

I SEE...

SKRITCH SKRITCH

CHATTER

THAT REMINDS ME... THE TRAINING WITH THE NORTHERN TROOPS IS COMING UP SOON.

REALLY...?

CHATTER

LUCY AND ISAAC—FRIENDS FROM MY ACADEMY DAYS—KEEP ME UP-TO-DATE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON UP NORTH.

CHATTER

I WONDER HOW THEY SURVIVE THE COLD WITH HAIR LIKE THAT.

I REMEMBER THEM MORE FOR THEIR WILD HAIRSTYLES THAN THEIR COMBAT SKILLS.

CHATTER

I REMEMBER MAJOR MILES AND CAPTAIN BUCCANEER USED TO GIVE US QUITE A BEATING.

CHATTER

IS IT ALREADY THAT TIME OF YEAR, SIR?

CHATTER
CHATTER
BUT SHE LIKED YOU MORE, DIDN'T SHE?
SHE WAS SO HAPPY THAT MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG TOOK A LIKING TO HER.
YEAH. SHE'S THE ONE WITH BLACK HAIR, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW MY FRIEND REBECCA, SIR?
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
SHE TALKED TO SUSAN AND ANDREW TOO, SIR.
BUT THE ICE QUEEN ONLY HAS THE HARSHEST OF WORDS TO SAY TO ME.
SHE SPOKE TO DOVE, LYSANDER, EDGAR, AND YORK TOO... SHE DIDN'T SINGLE ME OUT.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW TERRIBLE OUR TRENCH TRAINING WAS IN THE NORTH, SIR?
SO IN HER EYES, I'M EVEN BELOW *THEM*.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
OSCAR AND MIKE COMPLAINED EVERY TIME WE WENT ON WINTER MANEUVERS.
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T DRY HIS SWEATY SOCKS, PROBABLY.
2ND LT. HAVOC ALMOST GOT FROSTBITE... WHAT A COMMOTION THAT CAUSED.
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT IN WINTER.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
NOTHING BE-TASTES SIDES, WORSE THAN THE COFFEE AT THE EAST AREA HQ!
WHAT INGRATES !
IT WAS THE NORTHERN TROOPS' ***RATIONS*** THEY COMPLAINED ABOUT, SIR.
IT WASN'T THAT
I DON'T BLAME THEM. NOBODY LIKES THE COLD.

HE TOOK NORA THE SNIPER WITH HIM AND CAME BACK WITH A MAGNIFICENT DEER.

HE'S THE ONE I ORDERED TO GO SCROUNGE UP SOME FOOD FOR THE MEN..

YEAH...

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

DO YOU REMEMBER UNI FROM THE MESS HALL, SIR?

AFTER ALL, THE LAW OF THE NORTH IS, "DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN."

THAT'S HIS OWN FAULT.

CHATTER

CHATTER

BUT CHARLIE ATE SO MUCH VENISON, UNI DIDN'T GET A SHARE.

IT WAS DELI-CIOUS, SIR.

I DON'T KNOW WHO'S BIGGER, HER OR BREDA.

SHE GETS CHUBBIER EVERY TIME I SEE HER.

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

OH, AND REMEMBER, SIR, HOW LUCY WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE IN LINE AT THE MESS HALL?

DID YOU KNOW THAT AFTER STERLING STEPPED IN TO MEDIATE, HE GOT CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE AND ENDED UP IN SICKBAY?

SIR, YOU COULD HAVE BROKEN IT UP.

TONK

YEAH, THAT WAS SOME FIGHT!

HEH HEH HEH

UNI SAID, "IF YOU PUT ON ANY MORE WEIGHT, I'LL EAT ***YOU*** NEXT TIME THERE'S A SHORTAGE," AND THEN...

I NEED TO GO BACK ON DUTY. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

OH... I SHOULDN'T BE CHATTING SO LONG, SIR.

KLAK

UH-HUH...

HA HA HA

SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

SKRTCH

I REALLY DOES.

NOT MUCH TIME LEFT TO USE THE REST-ROOM.

OH!

...

BYE.

GOOD-BYE, SIR.

TOILET

MEN

"THE ELRIC BROTHERS" WENT NORTH AS WELL...

SKRICH SKRICH

"SCAR'S IN THE NORTH."

SPLISH

SPLUSH

FLOOSH

...."ISAAC" KEEP ME UP-TO-DATE...

scar

Elric

Lucy Isaac

SKRICH SKRICH

"LUCY" AND...

SKRICH SKRICH

"ARM-STRONG"

SKRICH

"DOVE" AND "LY-SANDER"

NEXT IS "ED-GAR"...

Dove

"MILES"...

"BUCCA-NEER"

"RE-BECCA"

SKRICH SKRICH

"SUSAN" AND "ANDREW"

"ICE QUEEN"

SKRITCH SKRITCH

"YORK"

"MIKE"...

"OSCAR"

"HAVOC"

SKRITCH SKRITCH

SKRITCH

"NORA"...

...."UNI"

...

DUBLITH

Welcome!

HOTEL

SEVERE SNOW STORMS ARE REPORTED IN THE AREA...

SNOW CONTINUES TO FALL IN THE BRIGGS REGION TODAY...

MY PLEA-SURE. COME AGAIN!

MEAT

THAT COMES TO 850 CENZ.

I GAVE YOU A SPECIAL DEAL.

OH MY! THANK YOU.

BYE.

BYE, MASON. SEE YA LATER.

SKREECH

SLAM
SLAM
?
IS THE ALCHEMIST IZUMI CURTIS HERE?
THEY LIKE TO TRAVEL. THEY NEVER SAY WHERE THEY'RE GOING OR WHEN THEY'RE COMING BACK..
I DUN-NO.
WHEN IS SHE COMING BACK?
WHERE DID SHE GO?
SHE'S TRAVELING WITH HER HUSBAND. SHE LEFT A FEW DAYS AGO.
THEY PUT ME IN CHARGE OF THE SHOP WHILE THEY'RE GONE.
HNPH!
ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T TRYING TO **HIDE** ANYTHING FROM US?
FUNNY WAY TO RUN A BUSI-NESS.

WE'RE ENVOYS OF PRESI-DENT BRAD-LEY.

WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE, ANYWAY?

SHOWING UP OUT OF THE BLUE AND DEMANDING TO SEE MS. CURTIS... HMPH.

I TOLD YOU, THEY'RE NOT HERE!

GASP!

"

THE PRESI-DENT ?

I'M TELLING YA, I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN THEY'LL BE BACK!

THE PRESI-DENT'S MEN...

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO TOOK MASTER GREED AWAY!!

THOSE MEN...

...BUT WHEN IZUMI CURTIS COMES BACK, TELL HER TO CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY.

WE'LL GO FOR NOW..

HAVE IT YOUR WAY.

VRM VRM VRM

VRCOM...

YOU SAID IT!

WHAT NERVE!

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

VRM VRM

VRM VRM VRM

VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM

HEY...

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE *YOU* HERE...

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

GWOON

GWOON

GWOON

GWOON

GWOON

GWOON

GWOON GWOON

SLEEP-ING, APPAR-ENTLY.

WHERE'S FATHER?

GWOON

HUH...

AN-OTHER RARE SIGHT.

GWOON

GWOON

GWOON

GWOON

...PRIDE

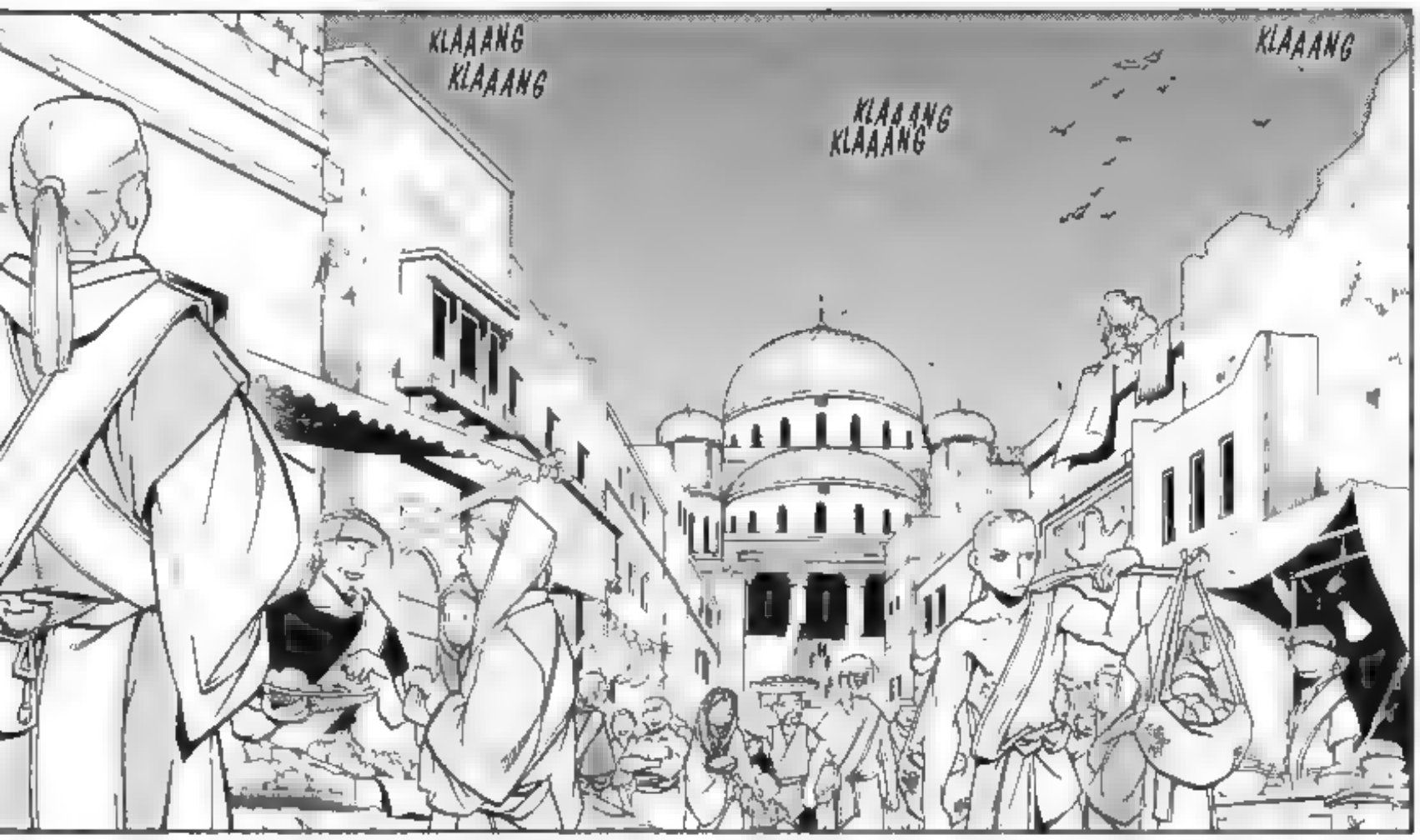
GWOON

GWOON

GWOON

GWOON

KLAAANG
KLAAANG


KLAAANG
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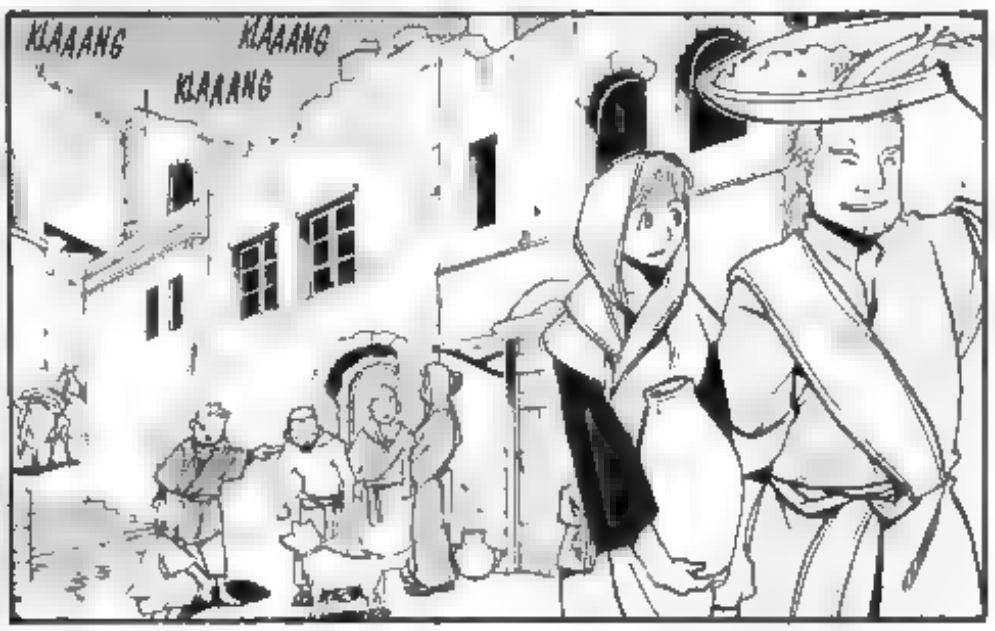

KLAAANG
KLAAANG
KLAAANG

SCRUBA

SCRUBA

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

YOU THERE.

YOUNG MAN.

SCRUBA

SCRUBA

HEY!

HELLO ?

OH.

YOU'RE IGNORING ME.

SCRUBA

SCRUBA

A LITTLE CLOSER...

THAT'S RIGHT

OVER HERE.

RIGHT HERE.

DOESN'T MY APPEARANCE SHOCK YOU?

YOU WANT ME TO ACT SHOCKED? WHAT'S IT WORTH TO YOU?

SLOOSH SLOOSH

WHAT ?

I'M BUSY. TALK TO ME LATER.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HMM..

YOUR BRASHNESS IMPRESSES ME.

I'M A SLAVE.

I DON'T HAVE ONE.

DON'T TELL ME YOUR NUMBER, TELL ME YOUR NAME.

MR TWENTY-THREE ?

SCRUBA SCRUBA

NUMBER TWENTY THREE

YOU MEAN, "THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED THEIR FREEDOM AND RIGHTS, WHOSE OWNERSHIP IS TRANSFERRED AND SOLD TO OTHERS AS A COMMODITY"?

A SLAVE..

SHUT UP !!!

YOU'RE NOT VERY SMART, ARE YOU?

...

HUH ?

"A CONVEYANCE, BY SALE, GIFT, OR OTHERWISE, OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY TO ANOTHER"

TRANS FERRED ?

?

BLOOD...

THE ONE WHO GAVE ME HIS BLOOD

IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?

?

I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD HAVE BEEN BORN OF A BEING LIKE YOU

YOUR BLOOD ENABLED ME TO COME INTO THIS WORLD.

THANK YOU... UH...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THE MASTER DID TAKE A LOT OF BLOOD FROM ME FOR SOME EXPERIMENT...

SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS VERY GRAND WOULD BE SUITABLE

LET'S SEE... HMM...

THEO... THEOPHRASTUS BOMBASTUS...

"NUMBER TWENTY-THREE" SOUNDS SO IMPERSONAL.

IN RETURN FOR YOUR KINDNESS, I'LL GRANT YOU A NAME.

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

HUH ?

TOO LONG.

BOM BASTUS VON...

THEN HOW ABOUT JUST...

...VON.

STOP SAYING I'M NOT SMART !!

I SEE. YOU'RE NOT SMART ENOUGH TO REMEMBER A LONG NAME.

VON HOHENHEIM ?

NO.

BUT I DON'T NEED TO KNOW ALL THAT TO DO MY WORK.

WAIT- DO YOU KNOW HOW TO READ AND WRITE?

IT'S SPELLED "V-O-N SPACE H-"...

VON HOHENHEIM... I GUESS I COULD REMEMBER THAT.

DON'T YOU LONG FOR YOUR FREEDOM, HOHENHEIM?

THEN YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES WILL NEVER CHANGE.

DO YOU PLAN TO WITHER AWAY IN A CAGE AS SOMEONE'S PROPERTY, WITHOUT EXPERIENCING ALL THAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS TO OFFER?

DO YOU WISH TO SPEND YOUR ENTIRE LIFE AS A SLAVE...WITH NO RIGHTS?

...AND IS THE MEANS BY WHICH YOU WILL GAIN YOUR FREEDOM

IT WILL HELP YOU SUCCEED IN LIFE WITHOUT EVER WEIGHING YOU DOWN..

KNOWLEDGE IS THE GREATEST TREASURE.

YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME, LIVING INSIDE THIS TINY FLASK.

...VON HOHENHEIM.

I WILL GIVE YOU KNOWLEDGE..

SWOO

WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?

SO... WHAT ARE ***YOU***...?

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE..

BUT LATELY, NOTHING IS... IMPOS-SIBLE!

"SELIM BRADLEY IS A HOMUN-CULUS" !!

SELIM BRADLEY IS A HOMUNCULUS

FSHH!

THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF JOKE.

YOU CAN CALL ME...

GRIN

...HOMUN-CULUS, THE DWARF INSIDE THE FLASK.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

KLAAANG
KLAAANG
KLAAANG
THIS IS HOW YOU WRITE "SUN."
LIKE THIS?
LIKE THIS.
THIS MEANS, "CATCHING THREE FISH."
UH HUH.
LIKE THIS?
HEY— HOW DO YOU WRITE "FISH"?
THIS IS "MOON."
WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT ANYWAY?
IT'S A SE-CRET!
IT MUST BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO READ AND WRITE.
YEAH, IF WE KNEW HOW, THE MASTERS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TRICK US ANYMORE.

YES !!

TOMORROW WE'LL GO OVER CALCULATIONS WITH DOUBLE DIGIT NUMBERS.

YOU AGAIN! I'LL SEE THAT YOU DON'T EAT TODAY, YOU LAZY DOG.

AAAH!! SORRY, MASTER !!

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU SCUM ARE SLACKING OFF!!

HEEEEY !!

SO THAT'S WHY THE SLAVES HAVE BECOME SO KNOWLEDGEABLE LATELY. YOU'VE BEEN ***TEACHING*** THEM.

I SEE...

YOU KNOW HOW TO WRITE...?

YES... I CAN READ, WRITE, AND DO SOME ARITH-METIC.

I CAN DO MORE THAN JUST READ AND WRITE, MASTER. I CAN ALSO DO A BIT OF *ALCHEMY*.

WOULD YOU HIRE ME AS YOUR *ASSISTANT*?

Chapter 75
The Last Days of Cselkcess

"IN OTHER WORDS, ONE IS ALL."

"THE ONE ALLOWS THE ALL TO EXIST AND THE ALL EXISTS WITHIN THE ONE."

"EVERYTHING COMES FROM ONE SOURCE AND WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME ONE AGAIN."

I'M STILL JUST AN ASSISTANT.

YOU'VE BECOME QUITE THE ALCHEMIST, HOHENHEIM.

"WITHOUT THE ALL WITHIN THE ONE, THE ALL CANNOT EXIST."

...

I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO REACH MY MASTER'S SKILL.

FOR WHAT ?

I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU.

HA HA HA

IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU ARE MY PARENT

I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD OUT OF THE BLOOD YOU GAVE ME.

YOU MEAN... I DON'T HAVE A HOUSE OR FAMILY YET, BUT I ALREADY HAVE A CHILD?

I AM ONLY ABLE TO LIVE SO WELL BECAUSE OF THE KNOWLEDGE YOU GAVE ME.

MY DAYS AS A SLAVE ARE A DISTANT MEMORY.

NO.

I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO THANK YOU.

DON'T USE THE WORD "BREED."

YOU HAVE TO BUILD COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO BREED AND PROPAGATE YOUR SPECIES.

BEING A HUMAN IS SO INCON VENIENT

A FAMILY..?

WELL...

SO, WHAT MAKES ***YOU*** HAPPY?

...BUT WE HUMANS FIND ***HAPPINESS*** THROUGH OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

IT MIGHT SEEM RIDICU-LOUS TO YOU...

HMM.. REALLY?

AS I AM NOW, IF I LEAVE THIS CONTAINER, I WOULD SURELY DIE.

I DON'T ASK FOR MUCH. I THINK I WOULD BE CONTENT IF I COULD FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE OUTSIDE THIS FLASK.

THE KING DESIRES TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

OH, REALLY?

HEY!

YOU TOOK IT OUT OF THE LABORATORY AGAIN, HOHENHEIM?

I NEED THE HOMUNCULUS.

HAND IT OVER.

MY APOLOGIES, MASTER.

I WONDER WHY?

THE KING...?

MIND YOUR TONGUE, HOMUNCULUS.

WHY DOES EVERYONE WHO ACQUIRES POWER AND WEALTH GO IN THAT DIRECTION?

IMMORTALITY?

IF YOU CONTINUE YOUR INSOLENCE, I WILL SMASH YOUR FLASK!

RIGHT SURE YOU WILL.

YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS MAJESTY, THE KING OF CSELKCESS.

YOU CREATED ME PURELY BY ACCIDENT.

IM-MORTAL-ITY...

IS IT POS-SIBLE OR NOT ?

IF YOU HARM ME IN ANY WAY, IT'S YOUR OWN HEADS THAT WILL BE SMASHED IN, RIGHT?

NNGH

ENOUGH IDLE CHATTER.

HOW PATHETIC, MY DEAR KING OF CSELKCESS.

HAS OLD AGE MADE YOU ANXIOUS?

I'LL TEACH YOU THE SECRET TO IMMORTALITY.

GRIN

ALL RIGHT...

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

THAT WOULD CERTAINLY HELP MY CROPS.

REALLY?

THE KING HAS DECREED THAT IRRIGATION DITCHES BE DUG THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM.

WHAT'S ALL THE DIGGING FOR? LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF WORK.

WE'RE MAKING AN IRRI-GATION DITCH.

BLESS YOU!

HE TRULY CARES FOR US COM-MONERS!

WHAT A GOOD MAN THE KING IS.

I CAN'T WAIT!

LET'S BRING THEM WATER.

SNORR.

NEEIGH!
THOK
WHAM

FOOOM

NEIGH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

KREEEAK

YOU'RE THE MAN WHO WAS DIGGING THAT DITCH!

!!

AIE!

WHAM

BOOM

AAA...

AAAAH

YES, SIR.

KILL THEM ALL.

NEXT ON OUR LIST...

GWOOOO

HOW ?

I HEARD THAT UP NORTH, BODATH VILLAGE WAS WIPED OUT IN ONE NIGHT.

BANDITS ATTACKED BODATH VILLAGE AND KILLED ALL THE PEOPLE.

WHAT A TRA-GEDY.

I HEARD THEY KILLED EVERYONE– EVEN THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THEY SAY IT WAS BANDITS.

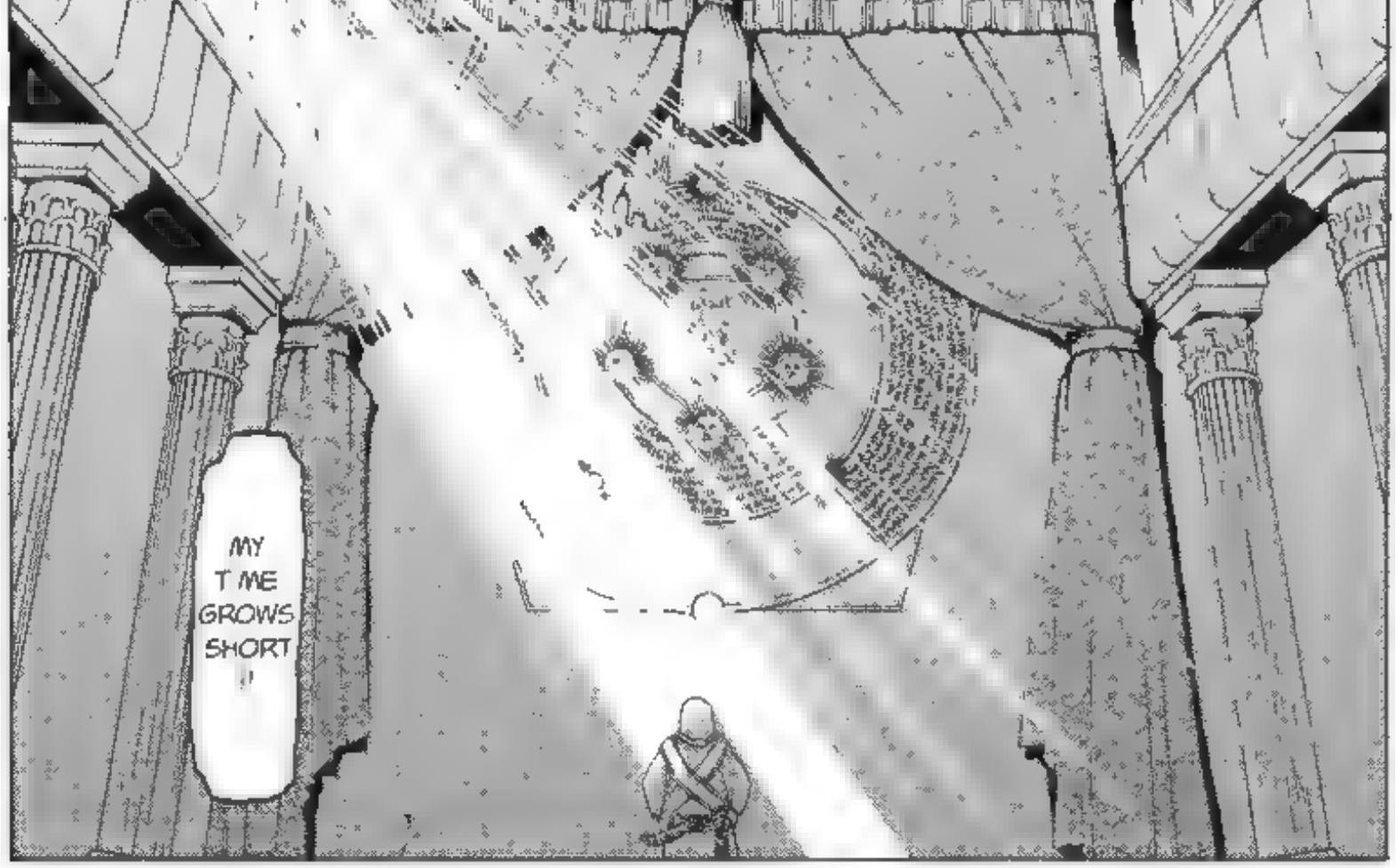
WHAT A SHAME.

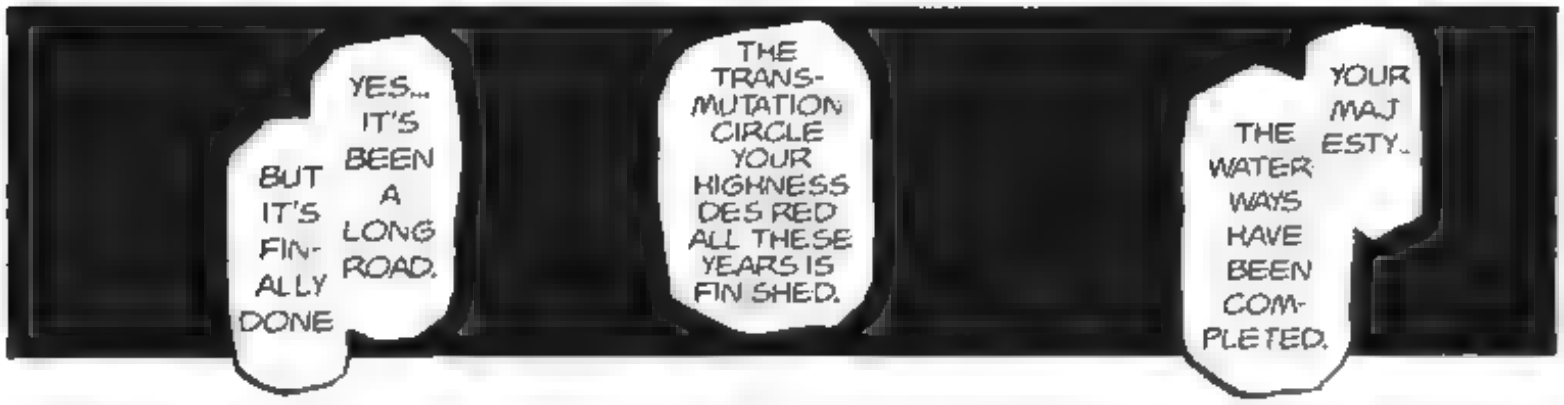
SWOO

REALLY... ?

FASTER...

MAKE HASTE...


MY TIME GROWS SHORT...


YES... IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD.
BUT IT'S FINALLY DONE
THE TRANSMUTATION CIRCLE YOUR HIGHNESS DESIRED ALL THESE YEARS IS FINISHED.
YOUR MAJESTY. THE WATERWAYS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

UNDER YOUR MAJESTY'S WISE RULE, WE CITIZENS OF CSELKCESS WILL ENJOY AN ETERNITY OF PEACE.
IT'S A SHAME THAT THE VILLAGERS HAD TO BE USED TO CREATE THE TRANSMUTATION CIRCLE...
WHEEEZE
...BUT NOW, AT LAST...
ALL SET
IMMORTALITY WILL BE YOURS, DEAR KING.
IS EVERYTHING IN ORDER, HOMUNCULUS?

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

NOW..

..LET US BEGIN THE RITUAL.

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

DRIP...

DRIP...

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

KLAAANG

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU

ZU
ZU
ZU
AMAZ-ING!
THE KING IS ABOUT TO BECOME IMMORTAL.
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
IT'S THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA!!
ZLOOP
ZLOOP
ZLOOP
ZLOOP
ZLOOP
ZLOOH

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
AHH... SO THIS IS...

WHAT'S WRONG ?!
GASP
WHAT IS IT?!

...IMMORTAL!...
...?!
GUHI

ZLCCP
ZLCCP
ZLCCP
ZLCCP
ZLCCP
BUT..
..YOU SAID NONE OF US WOULD BE HARMED!

?!
RRG..
GGH..

ZU ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
GASP!
GUHOHH
NEIHH!!

ZU
ZU
ZU
HEY, HOMUN...
GRIN
GRIN
ZU
ZU
WHAT ?!
WHAT'S HAP-PENING ?!
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ?!
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
HOHENHEIM, MY BLOOD RELATIVE...
THE TRUE CENTER OF THE TRANSMUTATION CIRCLE IS RIGHT HERE... WHERE YOU'RE STANDING.
...RIGHT NOW, YOU AND I STAND AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD.
I USED YOUR BLOOD WITHIN ME TO OPEN THE PORTAL.
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU

BLINK

FLA

ASH

booooh!

DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM

DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM

DO OM

NNGH...

WHAT...?

SOME-BODY.

WHY'S IT SO QUIET?

ANY-BODY...

SOME-
BODY...

THEY'RE
ALL..

..DEAD..

MEI-
YO.

TON

MEHI-
TILT.

WIL-
LARD.

RHINE-
MILE.

SOME-
BODY...

...ANSWER
ME....

WHAT
HAP-
PENED...
?

THEIR SOULS HAVE BEEN DRAINED OUT OF ALL OF THEM.

I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T BE POS-SIBLE.

YOUR MAJ-ESTY !!

!

YOU SURVIVED !

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW BODY?

DOES IT SUIT YOU?

I PUT ON WHATEVER I FOUND LYING AROUND.

DO YOU LIKE THESE CLOTHES ?

YOU'RE...

...ME!

NOW I CAN FINALLY WALK WITH MY OWN TWO FEET.

WHAT A RELIEF !

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF USING YOUR BLOOD TO CREATE A VESSEL FOR MYSELF.

FOCUS YOUR CONSCIOUS-NESS WITHIN AND YOU'LL SEE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT NEW BODY?

WHAT'S HAP-PENING—?!

YOU...

YOU'RE THE HOMUN-CULUS ?!

AND NOW...

THEN, I GAVE YOU KNOW-LEDGE.

FIRST, I GAVE YOU A NAME TO REPAY YOU FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR BLOOD.

IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SOULS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

...I'VE GIVEN YOU A BODY THAT WILL NEVER DECAY.

I'M ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP...

...HOHEN-HEIM.

WELL...

TECH-NICALLY, I TOOK HALF OF THEM FOR MYSELF.

I'VE FINALLY MADE IT OUT OF THAT TINY FLASK.

RRGH...

HUH ?

HEY, YOU! THE MAN WITH THE BEARD!!

MR. HOHEN-HEIM.

HEY

DO YOU REMEM-BER ME?

I KNEW IT WAS YOU.

YOU'RE MR. HOHEN-HEIM RIGHT?

AND I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU WERE MY SONS' TEACHER.

LUNCH

I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED YOU WERE ED AND AL'S FATHER.

HA HA HA! OH PLEASE, IT WAS NOTHING.

THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER MY BOYS.

...

SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE EXPLAINED YOUR INTENTIONS TO THOSE BOYS A LITTLE MORE CLEARLY BEFORE YOU LEFT?

I LEFT BEFORE I EVER DID ANYTHING FOR THEM AS A FATHER...

I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE KINDNESS OF OTHERS.

I'M A-SHAMED.

YES. YOU'RE RIGHT.

SCRUFF SCRUFF

GEHOFF!

IZUMI ?

IZUMI !!

KOFF!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!

KOFF KOFF

MEDS.

MEDS..

HURRY !

A-ALL RIGHT!

DASH

HUH..?

I'M FINE. THIS HAPPENS TO ME ALL THE TIME

SIG, PLEASE GET YOUR CAR.

.. TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE MOST DEFINITELY ***NOT*** FINE.

I HAVE ENOUGH MEDICAL KNOW-LEDGE...

YOU'VE SEEN *THE TRUTH* HAVEN'T YOU?

IZUMI...

WHAT DID YOU HAVE TO SACRIFICE?

IT'S XING STYLE ALCHEMY, SO IT MIGHT SEEM A BIT STRANGE...

FROM XING?

...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK. I'M NOT YOUR AVERAGE AL-CHEMIST.

AS I SAID BEFORE, I HAVE SOME MEDICAL KNOW-LEDGE.

SOME OF MY ORGANS WERE TAKEN.

MY BABY DIED AND...I TRIED TO RESUR-RECT IT.

SO NOW I CAN NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHILD.

IZUMI...

HAVE YOU BEEN CONTACTED BY THE MILITARY RECENTLY ?

?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE PRESIDENT CAME AND INVITED ME TO BECOME A STATE ALCHEMIST... BUT I DECLINED.

I SEE.

OKAY...

I UNDER-STAND..

KOFF

HUH ?

EXCUSE ME.

GOOD

SH

UNK

...NNGH..?

GOOS

SPUNK

KI

IZUMI !!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!!

THOK

IZUMI !!

CALM DOWN.

SHE'S FINE.

THERE'S...

...NO WOUND.

...I CAN... BREATHE EASIER NOW.

DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!! HE STABBED YOU IN THE ABDOMEN !

LET ME SEE THE WOUND !!

KOFF!

I CAN'T REPLACE THE ORGANS THAT WERE TAKEN FROM YOU- THAT IS THE COST OF YOUR SIN...

BUT I REORGANIZED YOUR ABDOMINAL CAVITY TO IMPROVE THE BLOOD CIRCULATION.

OWW...

HOHEN-HEIM...

JUST WHO *ARE* YOU ANYWAY...?

MS. IZUMI... ...IT IS NOT YET YOUR TIME TO DIE. THERE IS MUCH YOU STILL NEED TO ACCOM-PLISH.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I USUALLY TELL PEOPLE... BUT I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
SHIV
I'M A MON-STER.

I'M VON HOHENHEIM...
...THE HUMAN PHILOSO-PHER'S STONE.

"THE FIFTH ELEMENT."

"THE RED TINCTURE."

"THE GRAND ELIXIR."

"THE STONE OF HEAVEN."

"THE SORCERER'S STONE."

THE ONE DR. MARCOH HAD WAS ONLY PARTIALLY LIQUID.

SOMETIMES IT'S A LIQUID OR A POWDER.

JUST AS THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE HAS VARIOUS NAMES, ITS SHAPE VARIES—AND IT ISN'T EVEN NECESSARILY A STONE.

THE STONE WIELDS TREMENDOUS POWER, ENOUGH TO ALLOW WHOEVER POSSESSES IT TO TRANSMUTE WITHOUT A TRANSMUTATION CIRCLE.

THE ONE KIMBLEE HAS LOOKS LIKE A CRYSTAL, ABOUT THIS BIG.

THEN WE COULD AFFORD TO LET DOWN OUR GUARD A LITTLE...

IF WE COULD JUST TAKE IT FROM HIM...

THE ONE ENVY HAD WAS ABOUT THIS BIG.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THAT'S BIGGER THAN A PEBBLE.

UH-HUH.

IS IT REALLY THAT SMALL?

IF IT'S AS POWERFUL AS YOU SAY, YOU'D THINK IT'D BE A LOT BIGGER.

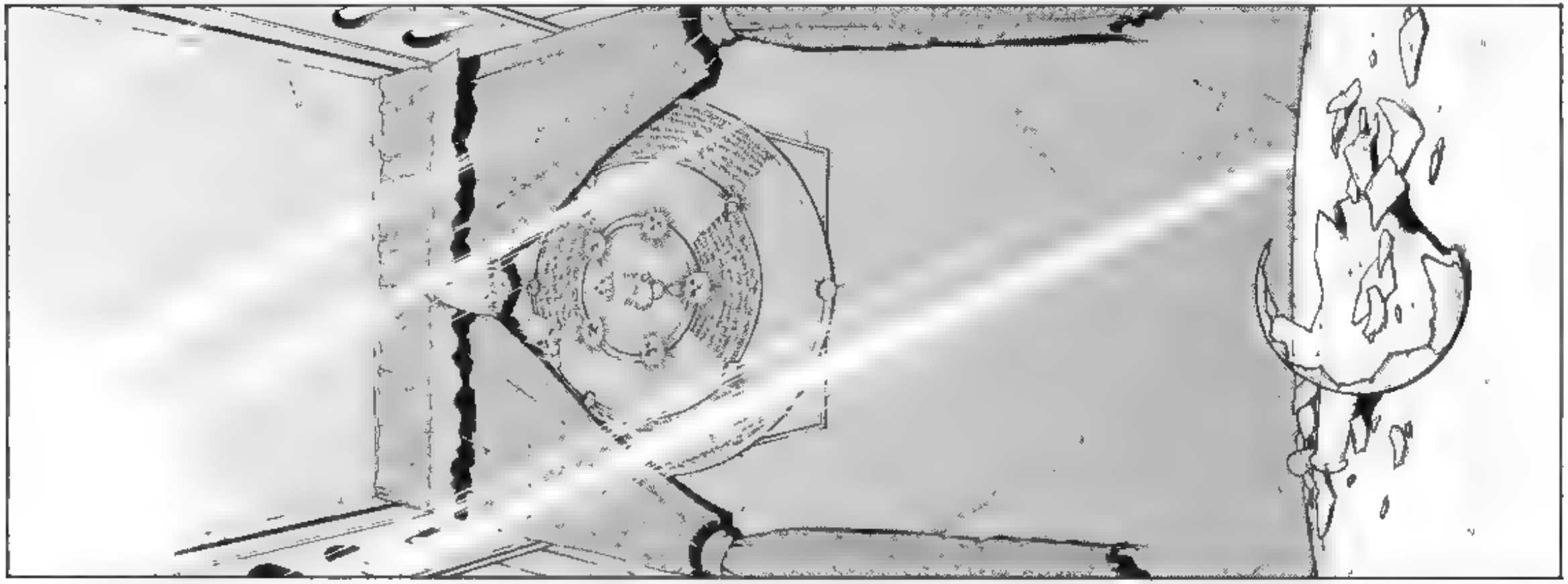
TO MAKE A BIGGER PHILOSOPHER'S STONE THEY'D NEED TO SACRIFICE COUNTLESS LIVES...

THAT'S SOMETHING I HOPE TO NEVER SEE.

...PHILOSO-PHER'S STONE?!

...YOU YOUR-SELF ARE A...

MR. HOHEN-HEIM, YOU....



Chapter 76
Shape of a Person, Shape of a Stone

LOOKS LIKE THE BLIZZARD HAS MOVED ON.

WITH SNIPERS, SIR?

UH-HUH.

BEGIN PREPARATIONS.

AYE, SIR.

KIMBLEE AND THE TWO MEN WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM FROM CENTRAL CITY...

...MUST BE NEUTRALIZED— NEATLY AND QUIETLY. NO LOOSE ENDS.

YES, SIR.

UNDERSTOOD, SIR.

BUT DON'T INFORM THE TROOPS WE BORROWED FROM NORTHERN HQ.

MAJOR MILES.

BY "NEUTRALIZE" YOU MEAN... YOU'RE GOING TO ***KILL*** THEM?

OF COURSE.

LIKE I SAID, WHY NOT JUST PREVENT HIM FROM BEING ABLE TO USE ALCHEMY. CAPTURE HIM, AND MAKE HIM TALK?

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD ELIMINATE HIM JUST YET.

ONE OF THESE DAYS, THAT SOFT HEART OF YOURS IS GOING TO GET YOU KILLED.

TCH

WHAT ABOUT HIS MEN?

HE'S TOO DANGER-OUS. WE CAN'T LET HIM LIVE.

YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL TELL US ANY-THING?

DON'T FORGET THE FIRST LAW OF BRIGGS—

"ONLY THE FIT SURVIVE."

MAYBE THEY WERE TURNED INTO CHIMERAS AGAINST THEIR WILL AND THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW ORDERS.

MAYBE SO.

BUT "MAYBE" ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

IF KIMBLEE AND THE OTHER TWO LET THEIR GUARD DOWN, I'LL HAVE THEM ELIMINATED.

LIKE MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG ALWAYS SAYS, CARELESS PEOPLE AREN'T WELCOME IN THIS LAND.

HE'S JUST A KID AFTER ALL, SIR.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

UH HUH.

HE'S NAÏVE TO THINK HE CAN SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT KILLING ANYONE.

BUT THERE WAS A T ME, SIR..

..WHEN I FELT THE SAME WAY.

HEH HEH

ME TOO.

THE ELRIC BROTHERS HAVE CHOSEN THE MORE DIFFICULT PATH.

HA HA HA.

I GUESS THEY LIKE TO GO AGAINST THE GRAIN.

BUT WHEN HE'S LIVED AS LONG AS I HAVE AND SEEN AS MANY BATTLES...

..HE'LL UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH HARDER T IS TO ***SPARE*** A LIFE THAN TO KILL.

YEAH.

AND IN A WAY .. I ***ENVY*** THEM.

A MIRACLE DRUG THAT GRANTS LONGEVITY.

WHAT'S THIS "RASAYANA" THING...?

IT'S THE WORD FOR GOLD.

WHAT DOES "AURELIAN" MEAN?

AND THIS THING THAT "TURNS NON-METAL INTO METAL AND MAKES AN OLD MAN YOUNG AGAIN"...?

COULD BE A REFERENCE TO THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE...

I WONDER IF THAT'S BECAUSE MR. SCAR'S BROTHER WAS INFLUENCED BY THE PURIFICATION ARTS OF XING WHEN HE WROTE THEM.

THESE NOTES ONLY ADDRESS TWO SUBJECTS: IMMORTALITY AND GOLD.

IN OTHER WORDS..."THE PROPERTIES OF GOLD CAN ETERNALLY REJUVENATE THE HUMAN BODY"?

MAYBE THAT'S WHY IMMORTALS ARE CALLED "BEINGS OF GOLD."

REALLY?

HMM.

TRUE BEINGS ARE CONSIDERED PERFECT SOULS—JUST AS GOLD IS THOUGHT TO BE THE PERFECT METAL.

IN XING, IMMORTALS ARE CALLED "TRUE BEINGS."

OF COURSE, THERE'S ANOTHER THEORY... THAT THE NAME CAME ABOUT BECAUSE THE PERSON WHO ***BROUGHT*** ALCHEMY TO XING WAS AN IMMORTAL WITH GOLDEN HAIR AND GOLDEN EYES.

HEH... GOLDEN HAIR AND EYES— SOUNDS LIKE ED AND AL!

I FOUND THE EXIT.

WE MADE IT! WE'RE OUT OF THE MOUN-TAINS.

HEY, EVERY-BODY— THIS WAY!

GOOD. THE SUN'S OUT HERE.

LET'S GET TO BRIGGS AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN.

WHOA!

IT'S SO BRIGHT.

THE SNOW COMES UP TO YOUR MIDDLE!

HOP ONTO MY BACK, LITTLE GIRL.

ZOOSH ZOOSH

THE SNOW-DRIFTS ARE REALLY DEEP.

FWUMP

EEEEK !!

ALL RIGHT, EVERY-BODY, FOLLOW M-

HEY..

HUH ?

HEY!

THANK YOU..

WE'LL TRAMPLE THE SNOW DOWN TO FORGE A PATH. JUST FOLLOW US.

BUHAAA!!

I'M SAVED !!

HELP ME!

OVER HERE !

MR. AL-PHONSE !!

IS THAT YOU, AL?

"CHANGED"...?

THINGS HAVE CHANGED. I HAD TO CROSS THE MOUNTAINS IN A BLIZZARD TO WARN YOU GUYS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, AL?!

I FELL INTO A SNOW-DRIFT. GOT BURIED.

WHAT?! SO THAT MEANS...

...AND THE MAJOR GENERAL'S BEEN SUMMONED TO CENTRAL CITY.

TROOPS FROM CENTRAL HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF FORT BRIGGS...

WHERE ELSE CAN WE GO?

BWOOOOOOOO

AN-OTHER PLACE?

THEN WE NEED TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO HIDE...

YUP. IT'S NOT SAFE TO GO BACK TO THE FORT.

LET'S EAT! LET'S EAT!

YEAH! THAT SOUNDS GOOD!

I BROUGHT A TON OF FOOD AND WINTER GEAR!

FOR NOW, WHY DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE SOME-THING TO EAT?

UM...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL RIGHT, AL?

KLANK

BIG BROTHER'S GOT THAT COVERED.

WON'T MR. KIMBLEE AND HIS MEN GET SUSPICIOUS IF YOU JUST DISAPPEAR?

DON'T WORRY.

GROUP FOUR— EIGHT MEN.

GROUP THREE— FIVE MEN.

...

YES, SIR.

VERY GOOD, SIR.

ALL RIGHT THEN. BEGIN SEARCHING YOUR DESIGNATED AREA.

YES, SIR.

SO EVERY-ONE IN THE MILES SQUAD IS AC-COUNTED FOR?

KLANK

AYE, SIR.

LET'S GO.

SQ SQ UEE EE

PSP

WSP

JUST DO YOUR BEST.

IT'S HARD ENOUGH MOVING AROUND INSIDE THIS THING WITHOUT PRETENDING TO TALK LIKE A KID!

WHSP

PSP

OH !!

YOU'RE SU- PPOSED TO SAY, "OKAY."

HEY, HEY! AL- PHONSE !

WHSP

?

WALK FASTER.

WOBBLE WOBBLE

SQUEE SQUEE

WAIT FOR ME, BIG BROTHER!

THEY'RE GOING IN THROUGH THERE TO CHECK THE TUNNELS.

SEE THAT VERTICAL MINE SHAFT IN THE CENTER OF TOWN, SIR?

WHERE ARE KIMBLEE AND HIS MEN STARTING THEIR SEARCH?

HEY...

I GUESS HE'S ON TO US.

TCH

I HEARD HE'S ONLY TAKING THE MEN HE BROUGHT FROM CENTRAL CITY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T TRUST THE NORTHERN TROOPS.

BWOOOOOO

WE'LL POSITION THE SNIPERS NEAR THE MINE SHAFT.

LET'S HEAD THEM OFF.

IS THAT *YOU*...

...FULL-METAL ALCHE-MIST ?

CRNCH

AND NOW...

LOOK FOR FOOT-PRINTS IN THE SNOW...

...NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE MINE SHAFT.

YES.

IF YOU'RE HERE, I *MUST* BE SEARCHING IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?

YOU CALLED ?

YOU'RE HERE TO BUY TIME UNTIL THE SNIPERS MOVE INTO POSITION, AREN'T YOU?

I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE YOU PROMISED TO GIVE ME THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE IF I HELPED YOU CATCH SCAR.

THAT'S A LIE.

...HOW DID YOU KNOW?

WELL, I SURVIVED THE WAR IN ISHBAL, AFTER ALL.

YOU COULD CUT THE TENSION IN THE AIR WITH A KNIFE. IT'S OBVIOUS.

YOU'RE QUICK.

HE'S WITHIN RANGE...

!!

YES, SIR.

CAN YOU DO IT?

ZAAAAH

SON OF A-

!!

HE'S *HIDING* IN THE *SNOW* !!

BAFOOSH!!

HUH ?!

KOFF

BOOM

BL OCK

AGH !!

SKKKIDACH

SNORT

SNORT

JUST AS I THOUGHT.

ZING ZING

GRR

GRR

GRR

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOIN', RUNT?!

WHOA !!

BOOOF

!

KIM-BLEE !

WAIT ..

ZAAAAAAH

AT LEAST THEY CAN'T SEE ME EITHER SO WE'RE IN THE SAME—

GAK !

WHY THAT LIT-TLE...

I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING IN THIS CLOUD OF SNOW.

PUFF PUFF

GRAB

YOU CAN'T SEE US, BUT *WE* CAN *SMELL* YOU.

SHUT UP !!

BZASH

SQUEEZE

YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM US, FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST.

SHUNK

RRR-RGH !!

FOOF FOOF

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!

BAM

WHAK

POW

WHERE ARE YOU?!! ANSWER ME!!

WHOMP

KOFF

FULL-METAL !!

THEY CAN TRACK BY SCENT IN ZERO VISIBILITY!!

THESE GUYS ARE CHIM-ERAS !!

MAJOR MILES!

WHOOAAH!

FWEEE

KRAK

CRNCH

HUH ?

BONK.

DON'T COME INTO THE SNOW CLOU-

OUCH !

SLIP

THM THM THM

THM THM THM THM

!!

OWIE!

OWIE!

KRNCH

DAMMIT! I'M GONNA BE *EVEN SHORTER* NOW..

DYNAMITE

POUNCE

HUH ?!

DYNAMITE

THAT'S *MORE* LIKE IT!

THOSE ARE TOO WET TO BE OF ANY USE.

SNIF SNIF

YOU IDIOT !

I'D KEEP MY DISTANCE IF I WERE YOU.

DYNAMITE

YOU KNOW WHAT *THIS* IS, RIGHT ?

NITRO-GLYCOL... SAW-DUST... AND..

NI-TRO GLYC-ERIN ?

..AMMO-NIUM NITRATE ?

HUH ?

DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHAT DYNAMITE IS MADE OF?

THAT'S EASY! NITRIC ACID AND AMM...

MITE

YNAMITE

GOOD. NOW WHAT'S AMMONIUM NITRATE MADE OF?

CLAP

AMITE

GRIN

...ONIA.

!!

FOOSH

GABoom

EYUCH.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

IT... STINKS...

THESE GUYS AND THEIR SHNOZZES ARE USELESS NOW.

ARRRRGH...

AMMO-NIA!

SNIFF

A STRONG SENSE OF SMELL HAS ITS DOWN-SIDE.

P/F

POP

YOU REALLY ARE A HOT-HEAD.

GOOD GRIEF

I WAS JUST RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL, SO I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO BREAK BONES FIGHTING A YOUNGSTER LIKE YOU.

RUSTLE

NOT TO MENTION THAT I HAVE MORE PRESSING BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

I JUST WANT YOU TO TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

SPILL IT.

SHRUG

THIS IS WHAT YOU DO AFTER GETTING OUT OF BEING BLACK-MAILED, HUH?

"BLACK-MAILED"?

WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?

.. IS WHAT I'LL USE ON **YOU.**

THIS..

HE BROUGHT THE STONE RIGHT OUT. I WON'T HAVE TO SEARCH FOR IT AFTER ALL.

WHAT LUCK !

DASH

HE'S FAST !

NOW I REMEMBER.. HE'S USING A LIGHTER MODEL AUTO-MAIL !!

ZIP ZIP

GRGH !!

DUCK

TINK

KLANG

KLING

NGH.

THOCK

SNIKT

TOO SLOW !!

AND HE CAN'T USE HIS TRANSMUTATION CIRCLE!!

HE'S LOST HIS PHILOSOPHER'S STONE!

YOU'RE DETERMINED NOT TO KILL...AN ADMIRABLE POLICY.

BUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THAT BECOMES A WEAKNESS THAT YOUR ENEMY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF.

"I'VE GOT HIM!!"

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...?

YOU SHOULD HAVE FINISHED ME OFF EARLIER WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.

!

NOW...

...I MIGHT HAVE ***ANOTHER*** PHILOSOPHER'S STONE...

...AND THE FACT THAT YOU DIDN'T CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT...

YOUR NAÏVETÉ...

...WILL BE YOUR UNDOING.

BZZ

ZA

M

THM THM THM THM THM THM THM

AAAAH

SLUMP

KLATA KLATA

THM THM THM THM KLATA KLATA

KLINK TINK KLINK TINK

THM THM

KLATA KLATA

KLINK TINK KLINK TINK

SLUMP

KLATA

KLATA

KLAK

RGH.

NRG..

KRASH

I MUST'VE FALLEN DOWN THE MINE SHAFT.

OWW...

UGH.

AAAH.

KIM-BLEE, YOU BAS-TARD...

HOW COULD YOU...?

KOFF

...

GLUK

YOU GOTTA BE KID-DING ME...

GLUK

GLUK

WHERE DID KIM-BLEE GO...?

DRIP

DAMN IT...

GURGLE

NGH...

GEHOF

UMP

?!

AL !!

I'M...

...BEING PULLED...

..AGAIN...

AL, WHAT'S WRONG ?!

MR. AL-PHONSE

OH NO..

YOUR SOUL IS BEING PULLED ?

I DON'T KNOW !

AL !

YOUNG LADY, HAS THIS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE?

HEY, ARMOR GUY! HANG IN THERE !

AL!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE BEING "PULLED" ?!

MY SOUL...

AL, GET UP!

SOME-BODY, PLEASE HELP HIM!!

ED

!!!

SOME-
BODY...

Chapter 77
The Tables Are Turned; A New Transmutation Circle

FWUMP

"NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THINGS BECOME, NO MATTER HOW FOOLISH YOU LOOK WRITHING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF YOUR BURDENS...

"...YOU HAVE TO KEEP LIVING FOR THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE."

"...YOU'LL GET YOURS BACK TOO, BIG BROTHER."

"I HOPE THAT THE DAY I GET MY ORIGINAL BODY BACK...

PLOP

TWITCH

THOK

"I PROMISE YOU THAT THE NEXT TIME I CRY, I'LL BE CRYING TEARS OF HAPPINESS."

CLAP

...OVER ME YET.

GLUK

...PEOPLE CRY...

...ALL THOSE...

I CAN'T LET...

KOFF

KLANG

BZ

ASH

CLAD

?!

BAM

..HUH

FZZSH

WRONG IDEA.

HUF HUF

DON'T GET... THE...

WEEZE WEEZE

SO IN KIMBLEE'S EYES, WE'RE JUST PAWNS TO BE SACRIFICED, ARE WE? THAT BASTARD!

GAKH !KOFF

WOBBLE

OW...

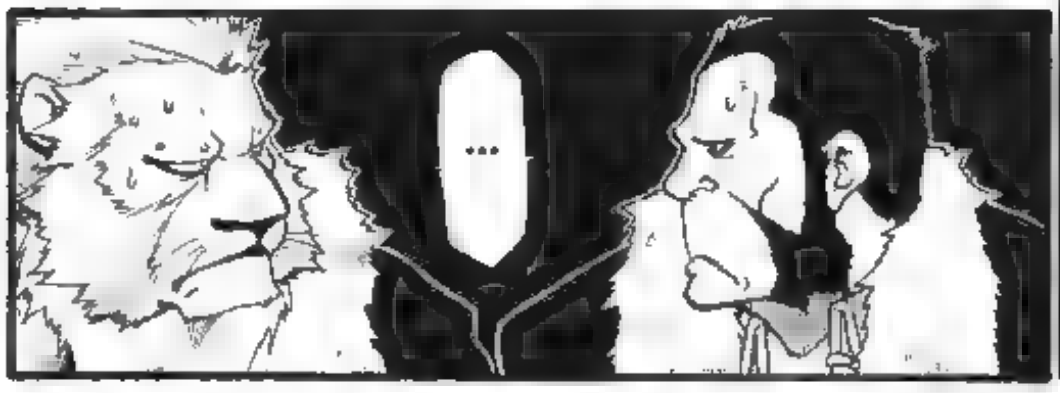
HEY FULL-METAL! YOU'RE ALIVE ?!

HOW COME YOU SAVED US?

YOU'RE IN WORSE SHAPE THAN WE ARE!!

UH-HUH. PLEASE.
BUT WE WERE ENEMIES JUST A SECOND AGO. YOU SURE?
YOU WANT US TO PULL OUT THAT METAL BAR?

WEENIE HUF
...SOMEONE TO...PULL THIS THING... OUT OF..
WEENIE HUF
I NEED...
...MY STOMACH.
WEENIE HUF


...

DO YOU SPECIALIZE IN MEDICAL ALCHEMY?
.. I'LL CLOSE THE WOUND WITH ALCHEMY BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN.
THE SECOND YOU PULL IT OUT...

EHRGH.
HUP
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE ORDERS TO KILL YOU...
LET'S SEE...

YOU DO REALIZE THAT IF WE PULL THIS OUT, YOU'LL BLEED TO DEATH IN MINUTES, RIGHT?

...I DID SOME RE-SEARCH ON THE TOPIC.

WEENE HUF

...WHEN I AT TEMPTED PHYSICAL TRANSMU-TATION...

WEENE HUF

LONG AGO...

I HEARD THAT WHEN SCAR IMPALED MR. KIMBLEE LIKE THAT, THE ONLY REASON THEY WERE ABLE TO SAVE HIM WAS BECAUSE THEY HAD THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

BUT YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS MUST BE ALL MESSED UP...

GAKH

WEENE WEENE

?

I'LL USE MY LIFE ENERGY...

...TO BOOST MY POWER.

A...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THAT?

OF COURSE, I MIGHT TAKE SOME YEARS OFF MY LIFE-SPAN...

I HAVE TO GET MYSELF OUT OF IT...

I WAS MY NAÏVETÉ THAT GOT ME INTO THIS SITUA TION.

THERE'S NO TIME TO WAVER.

ALL RIGHT. HERE GOES NOTH-ING.

YOU LOST ME, KID. BUT SEEING AS YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD ANYWAY...

...JUST LIKE THE PHILOSO-PHER'S STONE.

GLK

!!

HUFF

OKAY..

I NEED TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A SINGLE ENERGY MASS...

TUG

I'M READY.

I'M A PHILOSOPHER'S STONE WITH ONE SOUL'S WORTH OF ENERGY IN IT.

GLUK GLUK GLUK

AAAAH

GLUK GLUK GLUK

...HOW IT FEELS TO USE A SOUL !!!

GLUK GLUK GLUK

AH

GLUK GLUK

GAH GLUK GLUK

GGGH

KLOCH

A-Z

...IS HE DEAD?

WELL, I'LL BE!

I GUESS ALCHEMISTS DON'T NEED DOCTORS.

YOU CAN'T.. KILL ME... THAT EASILY.

PING

HUFF PANT PANT

I'M NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET..

I ONLY RECONNECTED THE UNDAMAGED AREAS...

..AND STOPPED THE BLEEDING. IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY FIX.

THEN YOU NEED A REAL DOCTOR.

THOSE WOUNDS WILL REOPEN FOR SURE IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL.

WEEZE

THEN I GUESS THERE'S NO OTHER WAY..

IN THAT CONDITION, YOU AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT FAR.

I GOTTA ...HURRY.

STAGGER

THERE'S NO TIME...

KOFF

I'M THE KING OF BEASTS!

COOL MANE, HUH?

...IS IN MY FACE!

YOUR HAIR...

...CAN'T... BREATHE.

HEFT

UP YOU GO.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE— I'M IN YOUR DEBT.

I'LL BE YOUR LEGS.

WELL?

WHERE TO?

HM?

SLMP

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

HE PASSED OUT.

THE OTHERS... ...ARE IN DAN-GER...

...KIM-BLEE... WE HAVE TO CATCH UP WITH...

SNIF SNIF

..WE'LL MOST LIKELY FIND MR. KIMBLEE TOO.

IF WE GO AFTER SCAR.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO UP THERE WITH ALL THOSE BRIGGS MEN LOOKING FOR US.

IN HIS CONDITION, HE WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST MR. KIMBLEE.

LITTLE FOOL...

THEY'LL FIGURE WE BOTH DIED UNDER THIS RUBBLE SO WE'LL BE FREE OF MR. KIMBLEE.

NO NEED TO CALL THAT FREAK "MISTER."

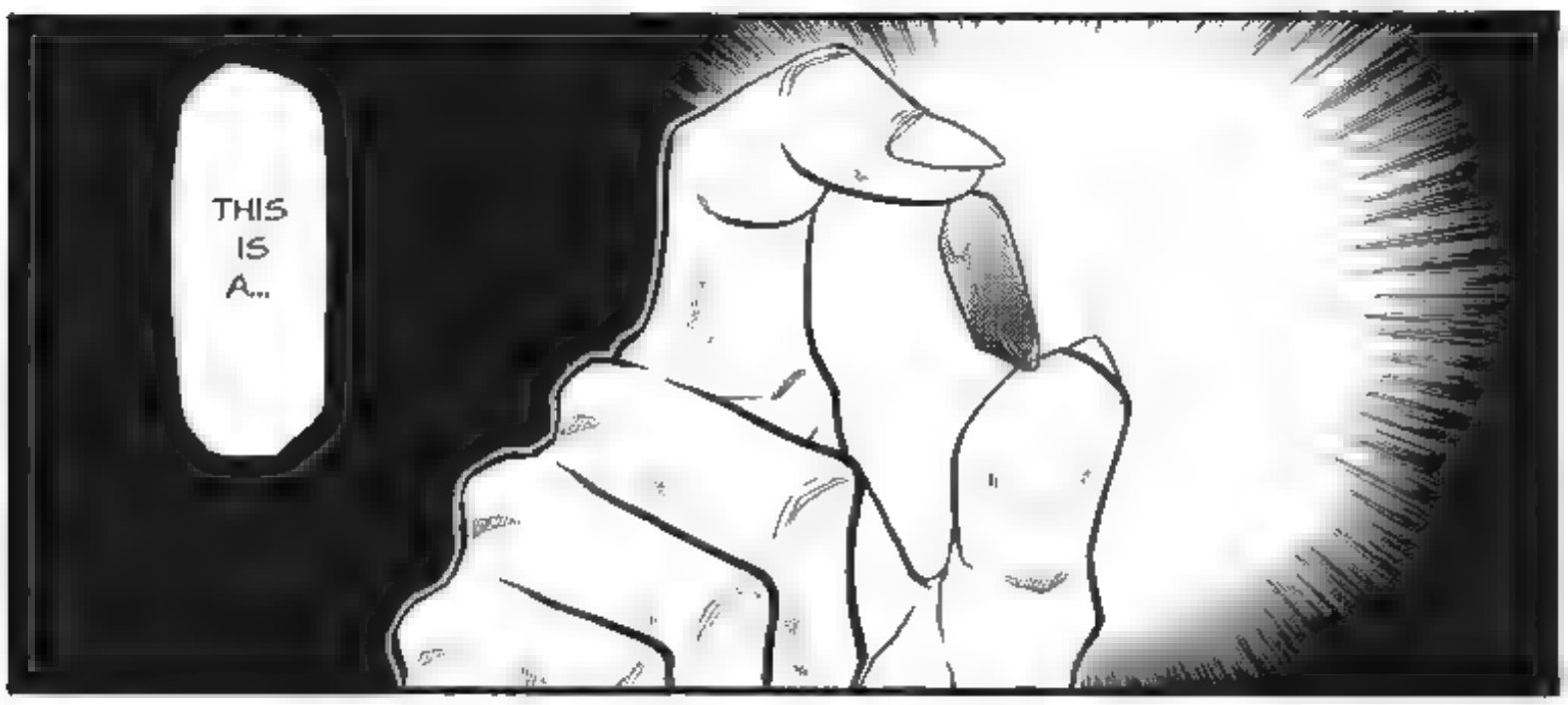
HE ALMOST KILLED US.

HUP

WE HAVE NO CHOICE

LOOK, I DON'T CARE WHAT THE KID SAYS— THE SMART THING TO DO IS FIND THE FASTEST WAY OUT OF THIS FROZEN HELL.

WHAT IS IT?
HM ?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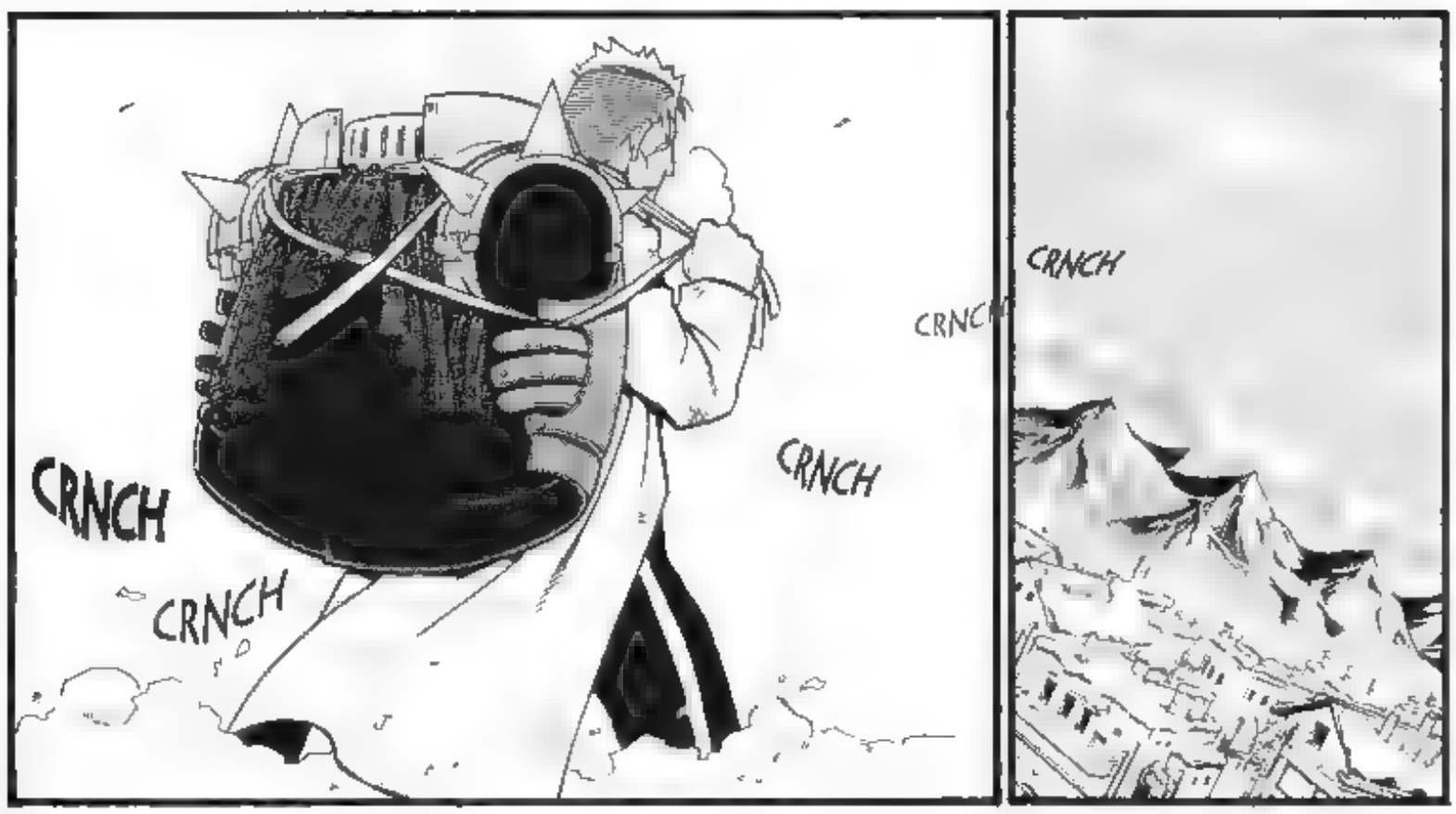
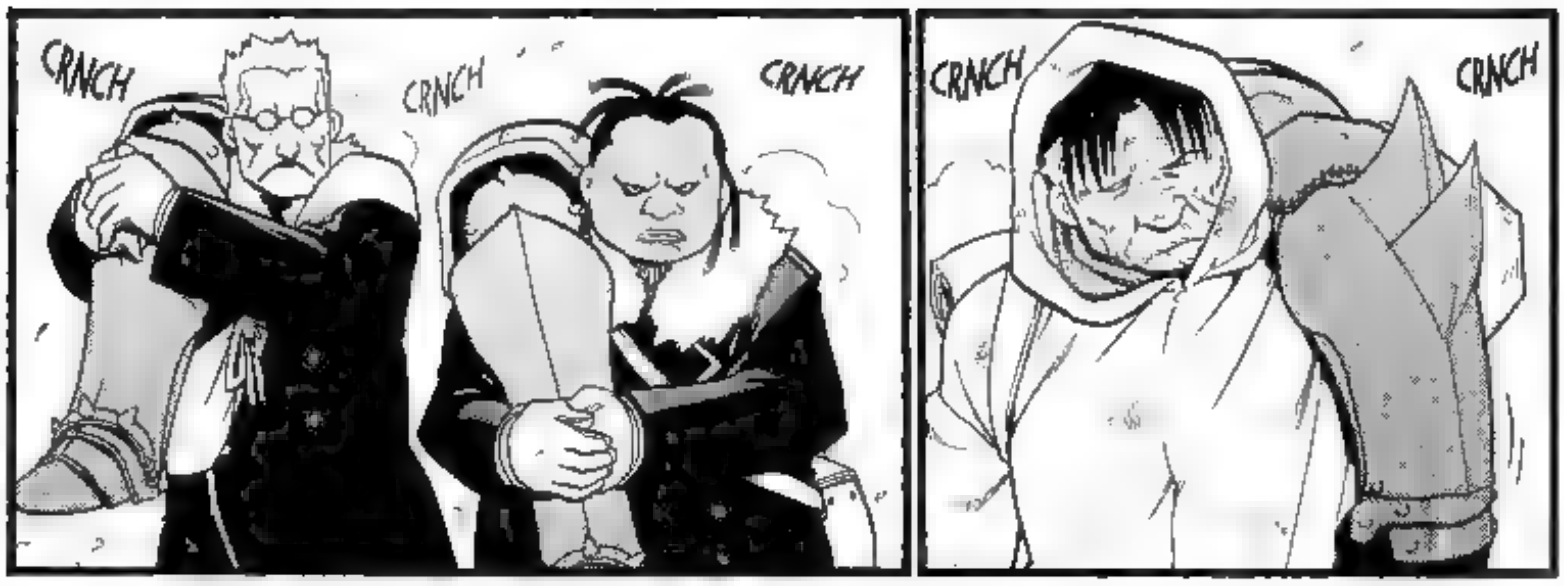

CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH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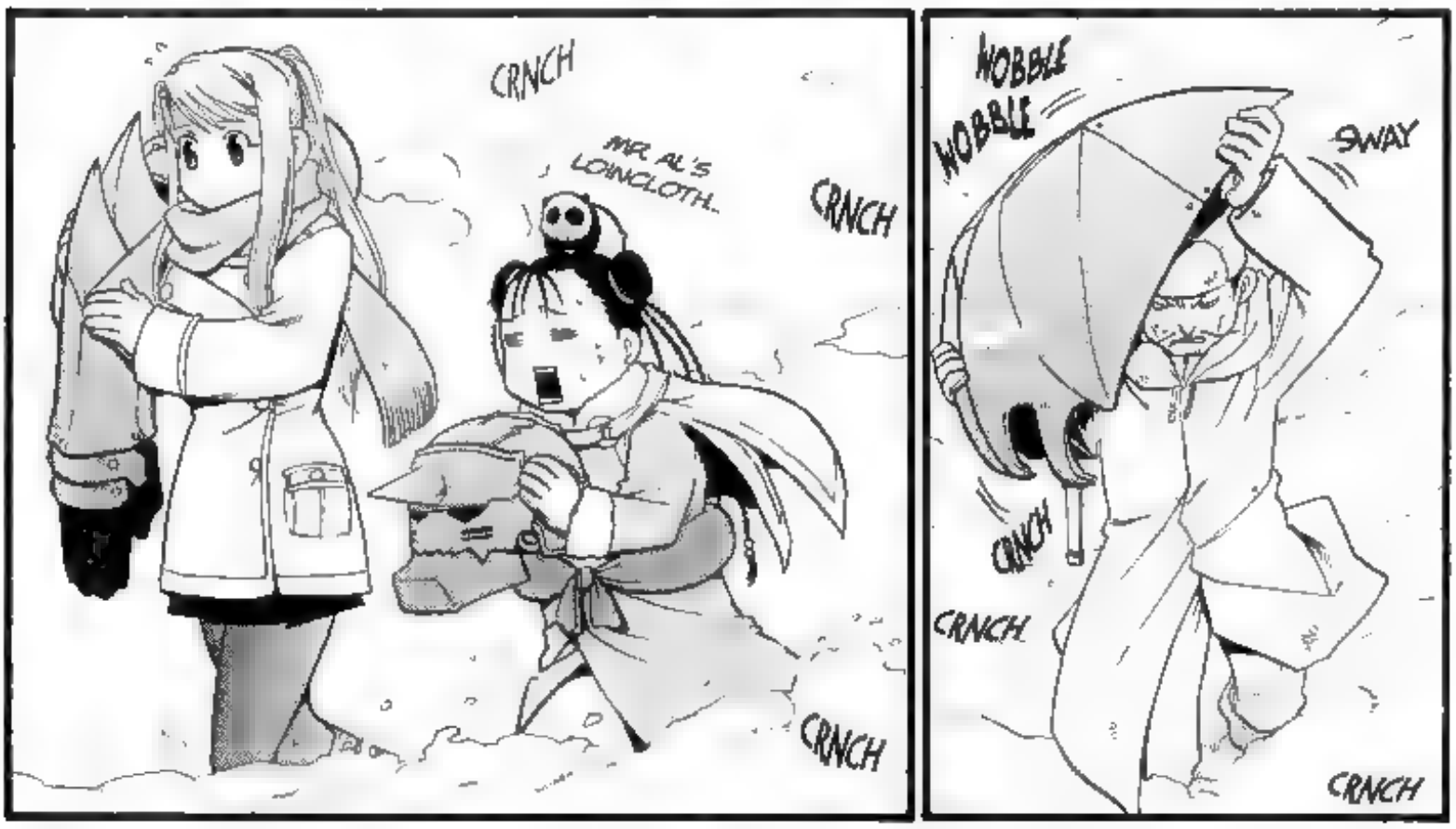
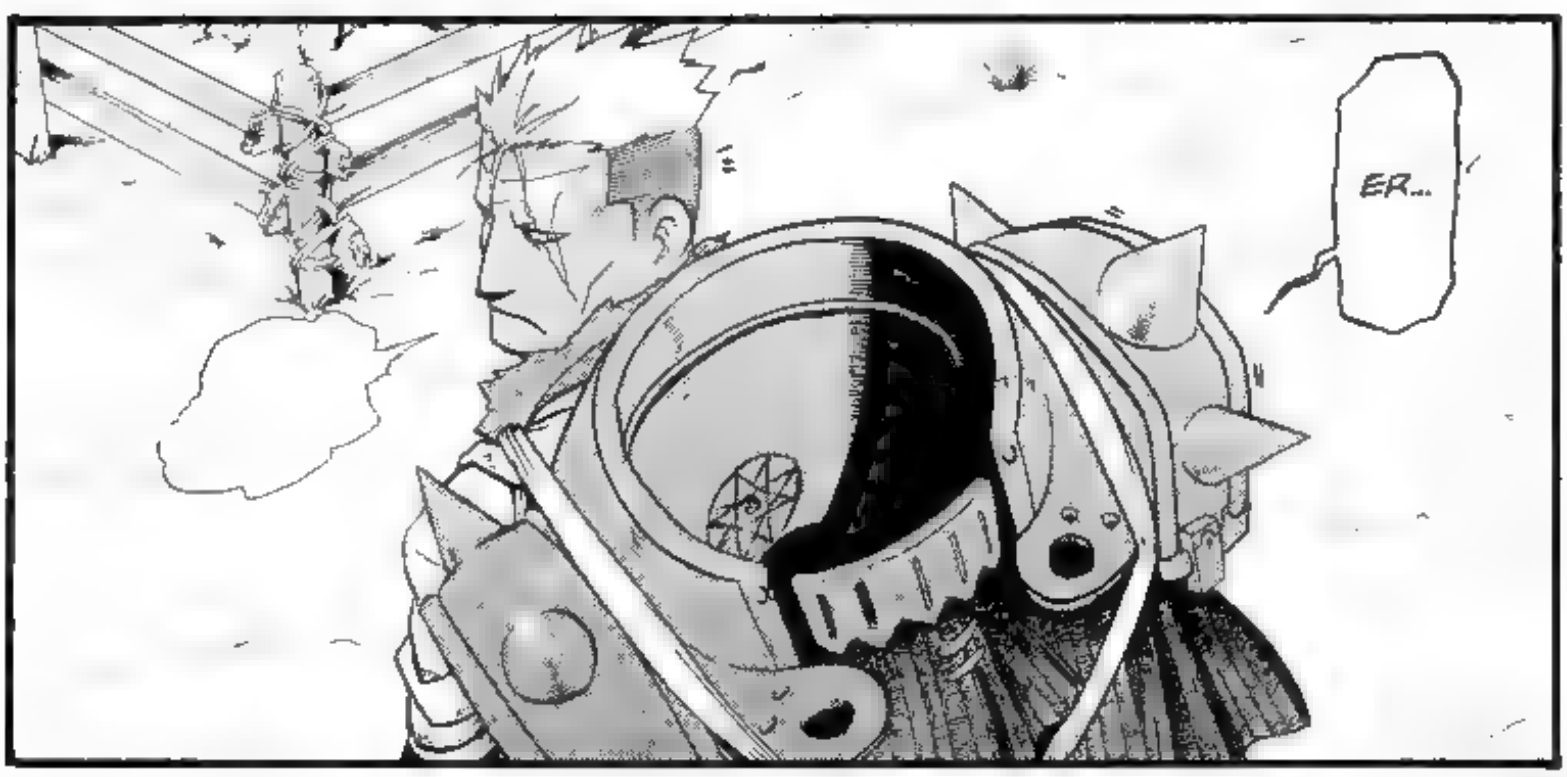

CRNCH
MR. AL'S LOINCLOTH.
CRNCH
CRNCH
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
SWAY
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH


ER...

YOU'RE AWAKE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HEY, WHY AM I IN PIECES?!

AL!!

WIGGLE WIGGLE

HUH?

WHA...?

MR. AL!!

YOU FAINTED ALL OF A SUDDEN.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?!

I THOUGHT YOU'D ***NEVER*** REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS...

WHAT A RELIEF...

SORRY, GUYS...

BAD TIMING. SORRY TO BE SUCH A BURDEN.

YOU'RE TOO HEAVY TO CARRY WHOLE, SO WE HAD TO DISASSEMBLE YOU.

OH...

AAAAA... CHOO!!!

AAA-CHOO!!!

LET'S GO IN THERE FOR NOW.

GOOD IDEA...

STOP YAPPING AND FIND US A PLACE TO REST.

SHIVR SHIVR

RRRGH... IT'S SO COLD!!

SO, THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME IT HAPPENED?

AH-CHU

UH HUH

JUST ONCE- WHEN I LEFT TO FIND YOU GUYS.

HAS THAT EVER HAPPENED TO YOU BEFORE?

HE BETTER NOT MAKE A HABIT OF IT.

TWICE IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME...

I'M SO SORRY...

I KNOW YOU HAVE A LOT TO DO— LIKE DE-CIPHERING THE RESEARCH NOTES..

WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP CARRYING YOU AROUND IN PIECES FOR NOW. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.

SURE.

?

MR. MARCOH, MAY I SEE THAT FOR A MOMENT?

STARE

STRING BIND-INGS...

IN PIECES...?

WAIT!

FLIT FLIT FLIT

WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!!

?!

SNAP SNAP

FWAP

BLAST IT! YOU MIXED UP ALL THE PAGES!

FLIT FLIT

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT EACH PHRASE IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS...

I NOTICED THESE RESEARCH NOTES HAVE TOO MANY PHRASES REFERRING TO GOLD AND IMMORTALITY.

I THINK I SAW THIS PHRASE OVER THERE TOO.

"THE GOLDEN BEING"...

FLIT FLIT FLIT

"IMMORTALITY" CAN BE STACKED ON TOP OF THIS ONE.

I SEE LET ME HELP YOU.

I WANTED TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE TOOK THE RESEARCH NOTES APART AND STACKED THE PAGES SO THAT EACH PHRASE IS ON TOP OF THE ONE THAT CORRESPONDS TO IT.

FLIT

THAT ONE GOES WITH THIS ONE OVER HERE.

WHAT THE...?

RSTLE

FLIT

GIVE ME THAT PAGE, MARCOH...

RSTLE

OH, RIGHT HERE!

"THE PERFECT BEING" GOES...

FLIT

...LIKE *THIS*.

OH! MAYBE THE DIAGRAMS ON EACH PAGE CONNECT...

HERE'S THE LAST ONE...

THAT'S...

TALK ABOUT BAD TIMING !!

ARE YOU SAYING THESE RESEARCH NOTES HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE ABSOLUTELY USELESS?

THIS IS THE GIGANTIC NATIONAL TRANSMUTATION CIRCLE FOR CREATING THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE THAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT!

SLUMP

HOW CAN THIS HELP US?!

YOU HAD THE NERVE TO RESEARCH ALCHEMY, THE SCIENCE DETESTED BY ISHBALANS, AND DABBLE IN THE PURIFICATION ARTS OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY...

AND **THIS** IS ALL YOU HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT?!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

OLDER BROTHER... IS THIS REALLY ALL YOU WANTED TO TELL ME?

WE WERE COUNTING ON THESE TO SAVE US!!

WHOA !

POOF

AAAA-CHOOO !!!

AA... AA...

YOU'RE A BIG-SHOT ALCHEMIST, RIGHT? DO SOME-THING!

SHIVR

SURELY THERE'S MORE TO IT?!

OH, GEEZ...

WHICH SIDE IS UP?

I CATCH COLD EASY !!

D-DON'T BLAME ME! BLAME THE WEATHER!

YOU 'DIOT' WHAT IF YOU JUST LOST SOME PRECIOUS CLUES?!!

I GUESS WE HAVE TO START OVER.

UM... THIS ONE GOES OVER HERE AND...

FLIT

FROM BAD TO WORSE...

WE COULD SURE USE A BREAK !!

WHAT?

TURN THE WHOLE THING *OVER!*

THAT'S IT!

WITHOUT CHANGING THE PLACEMENT OF THE PAGES!!

FWIP FWIP

GOT IT!

!!

YOU GOT IT!

..WELL?

FWIP

FWIP FWIP FWIP

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT'RE THEY DOING?

...ACTIVATED THROUGH THE *PURIFICATION ARTS.*

IT'S A NEW *AMESTRIAN NATIONAL TRANS-MUTATION CIRCLE* THAT'S...

BWOOOOOOO

DRIP

KREEK

KREEK

SHLURP

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

THERE'S NO TRACE OF ANYONE HAVING COME THROUGH HERE.

PERHAPS I TOOK THE WRONG PATH..

I SHOULD GO BACK..

HYOOOO

OOOO

KLAK

HYOOOO

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KREEEEAK

ZOLT

YOU'RE THE RED LOTUS ALCHEMIST ?

ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU

I SEE.

THEY'RE USING THIS PLACE TO STASH THE TAILINGS FROM THE TUNNEL SLOTH IS DIGGING.

MY NAME IS *PRIDE.*

ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU

NICE TO MEET YOU.

SCAR CAN WAIT. I HAVE MORE PRESSING BUSINESS FOR YOU.

YOU ARE TO...

HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH SCAR?

ZU ZU

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZLCOP

I'M STILL PURSUING HIM.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THE BRIGGS TROOPS ARE STRONGER AND MORE UNIFIED THAN YOU REALIZE.

...CARVE THE CREST OF BLOOD INTO FT. BRIGGS.

THEN YOU MUST ***USE*** THEIR STRENGTH AND UNITY ***AGAINST*** THEM.

THAT WOULD BE NO SIMPLE TASK.

THE TUNNEL SLOTH IS DIGGING IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

DIG DIG

DIG DIG DIG DIG

MAKE HASTE..

GWOON

MAKE HASTE

GWOON

GWOON

HURRY..

THE *FINAL DAY* IS ALMOST HERE.

I HEAR KIMBLEE'S MISSING. IS THAT TRUE, SIR?

UH-HUH.

SINCE THEN, KIMBLEE— AND A FEW OTHERS— HAVEN'T REPORTED BACK.

THERE WAS AN EXPLO-SION IN A MINE SHAFT.

A COUPLE OF KIMBLEE'S MEN...

... AND THE FULL-METAL ALCHE-MIST.

KLAK KLAK KLAK

BUT AFTER TEN DAYS OF SEARCHING, NO BODIES HAVE TURNED UP.

HM...

THOSE OTHERS YOU MEN-TIONED... ARE THEY BRIGGS SOLDIERS?

Chapter 78
The Seven Deadly Sins

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

WUZA

WUZA

THE BORDER WAR IN PENDLETON IS HEATING UP.

HOW ARE THINGS IN THE WEST?

WUZA

I SEE.

WEST CITY STATION

TTER CHATTER

CHATTER

I'VE NEVER SEEN CASUALTIES LIKE THIS.

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU PREDICTED. THE MILITARY IS SENDING MEN TO THE SLAUGHTER TO CREATE A TRANS-MUTATION CIRCLE.

FAL-MAN...

I HOPE FULLMETAL IS OKAY.

I TALKED TO HIM ON THE PHONE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

ANY WORD FROM SGT. MAJOR FURY IN THE SOUTH?

BOOM

TAT TAT TAT TAT

HE'S IN THE SOUTH OF FOTSET FIGHTING THE AERUGO ARMY.

THE OLD MUSTANG GANG ISN'T VERY POPULAR WITH THE HIGHER-UPS.

NO DOUBT THEY TRANS-FERRED HIM TO THE WORST POST THEY COULD FIND.

FRRRMBLE

BLAM

KLATTA KLATTA!

PEH

KEEP MOVING, THOMAS "

DON'T STOP "

BOOM

AGH!

THOMA

THAT REGION ALSO FALLS WITHIN THE TRANSMUTATION CIRCLE, SO THINGS ARE PROBABLY BAD THERE TOO.

I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT.

I'M GONNA SURVIVE NO MATTER WHAT !!

I'M GON-NA SUR-VIVE !!

CRAP...

DAMN IT!!

GOOD.

I KNOW THINGS ARE TOUGH UP THERE IN THE NORTH. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

WE USED A MESSENGER LOYAL TO THE ARMSTRONG FAMILY TO SEND HIM A DETAILED MESSAGE...

THE OLD FLORIST

YES.

HAVE YOU KEPT IN TOUCH WITH THE MAJOR ?

DIG DIG DIG

THERE'S A *HOMUNCULUS* DIGGING A TUNNEL RIGHT UNDER OUR FEET.

AND THE WORST PART IS... WE CAN'T DO A THING ABOUT IT!

"TOUGH"

THAT'S AN UNDER-STATE-MENT!

CRNCH CRNCH CRNCH

POW

ERR

KLATTA KLATTA KLATTA

KRACK

GAPE

..WORK-ING NOW, PRIDE ?

..STOP..

CAN I..

ALL..

..DONE

RATA TATA RATA-TATA

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG KLANG KLOON

LINE UP!

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

LUNCH-TIME, EVERY-BODY!

OH!

I CAN'T WORK BUT... COULD YOU PLEASE SPARE SOME FOOD FOR THESE CHILDREN?

SURE, SURE.

TAKE SOME FOR YOUR-SELF TOO, MA'AM.

I WANT A MEAT PIE NEXT TIME, ROSÉ

KLANG KLOON KLINK

LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO REOPEN MY SHOP NEXT WEEK

HIRE ME.

AS SOON AS I GET THE INGRE-DIENTS, I'LL MAKE YOU ONE.

ALL RIGHT

EVERY-ONE GETS AN EQUAL POR-TION.

I CAN'T...

HOW ABOUT ONE MORE, ROSÉ?

WUZA WUZA

I'D LIKE SOME TOO PLEASE

JH

EX CUSE ME.

YOU SAVED ME FROM STARVA-TION!

THANKS !

NO-WHERE REALLY...

I TRAVEL AROUND.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I WOULDN'T SAY *NOTH-ING*...

YOU CAN STILL FIND A *HOT MEAL* AT LEAST.

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

THERE'S ALMOST NOTHING LEFT OF REOLE SINCE THE RIOTS.

WHY WOULD YOU COME *HERE* OF ALL PLACES?

BYE, ROSE

NO NEED TO BE SO MODEST.

A HOT MEAL AND YOUR LOVELY SMILE HELPS MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

THANKS, IT WAS DELI-CIOUS. YOUNG LADY.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN HELP..

OH, IT'S..

YES. THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE LETO CULT THAT CAUSED THE RIOTS.

..RIGHT OVER THERE.

I'M LOOKING FOR THE CHURCH. DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?

WOULD YOU DO ME ONE MORE FAVOR?

THE CHURCH ?

A STATUE THAT WAS TRANSMUTED BY THE ALCHEMIST WHO EXPOSED THE CHURCH OF LETO AS A SCAM.

..WHAT'S THAT?

IT SURE IS *TACKY*.

URR..

THERE'S SOME PLAN TO TURN IT INTO A TOURIST ATTRACTION TO HELP FUND THE RECON-STRUCTION EFFORT.

NO SENSE GOING IN THERE NOW. YOU WON'T FIND A THING.

EVERYTHING OF VALUE HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN.

KREEEAK

YES. IT'S OVER HERE.

IS THERE A PASSAGE-WAY BENEATH THE BUILDING?

...THE UNDER-GROUND PASSAGE-WAY, BUT...

YOU CAN ENTER..

NO ONE CAN GET PAST IT.

A POISONOUS POND.

WHAT'S THIS...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN PUT HERE TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT.

HMM...

WAIT...

YOU FOOL !!

GO IN THERE AND YOU'LL DIE!!

?!

STEP

LET'S SEE...

BASHIN!!

BZASH
BZASH
STRIDE
STRIDE

I'M GOING IN A BIT FURTHER. WOULD YOU MIND WAITING FOR ME THERE?

NO... ISN'T THAT... *ALCHEMY*?

IT'S... A MIRA-CLE..

BZASH BZASH
STRIDE
STRIDE

WHAT-EVER HAPPENS, DON'T FOLLOW ME.

TMP TMP TMP

OH...

-ATTA KLUNK

CRMBL

BA

GO

TMP

TMP

TMP

TMP

SNAP!

WHY WOULD THEY DIG SUCH A BIG TUNNEL ?!

TMP TMP TMP

IT'S HUGE

I'VE HIT THE JACK-POT..

ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU

ZWCON

ZWCON

ZWCON

ZWCON

ZAP

ZOOM

SLAP

HUP
!!

ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU

AAAH

WHOA
!!

ZU

SLICE

ZASH ZASH ZASH

OH, DEAR.

DIDN'T EVEN SLOW IT DOWN.

GA ZAAM

MAYBE I CAN TRAP IT.

BUT

SHEESH.

ZOOP ZLOOP ZOOP

YO

OSH

HUH ?
SLIP
YOW !
WHAK
ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU
NOW I'M REALLY STUMPED.

AA
VOOSH

ZING

ZIN

WHAT'S THE MAT TER?

AREN'T YOU GOING TO ATTACK ME?

FCF FCF

ZLOOP

ZOOP

ZOOP

ZLOOP

ZOOP

ZOOP

YOU'RE VON HOHEN-HEIM!

LEER

THAT FACE...

HUH ?

APPARENTLY THIS IS THE *EDGE* OF YOUR *CONTAINER.*

MY GUESS IS YOU CAN ONLY MOVE AROUND FREELY WITHIN THIS TUNNEL AND THE MAIN PART OF CENTRAL CITY.

AM I RIGHT ?

GRAB

GRAB

JUST LIKE WHEN YOU WERE IN THAT FLASK.

YOU CAN'T SURVIVE AFTER CROSSING THIS LINE, CAN YOU?

GRAB

IF YOU VENTURE PAST IT, YOU'LL DIE, RIGHT?

SNEER

SAY SOME-THING. CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE ?

DID I HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD?

...

..GREED..

..SLOTH..

..LUST..

..GLUTTONY..

..AND ENVY

I LEFT ALL UNNECESSARY EMOTIONS WITHIN FATHER.

MY NAME IS PRIDE.

ARE YOU AN-GRY ?

..DOES NOT EXIST WITHIN ME.

ANGER..

NEITHER ANGER, NOR..

THERE ARE SEVEN DEADLY SINS WITHIN A PERSON.

LUST, GREED, SLOTH, GLUTTONY, ENVY, WRATH...

...AND PRIDE.

I SEE.

PRIDE, HUH?

I'M SURPRISED HE EXPENDED THE ENERGY TO GIVE YOU THE APPEARANCE HE HAD WHEN HE WAS IN THE FLASK.

I GUESS YOUR NAME EXPLAINS IT...

SO YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE HE SEPARATED FROM HIMSELF...

THE SIN OF PRIDE.

YOUR VERY ***APPEARANCE*** SUGGESTS ARROGANCE AND POMPOUSNESS.

THE ***TRUE ESSENCE*** OF YOUR FATHER.

DON'T BE IN SUCH A RUSH.

GRAB GRAB

I DON'T NEED AN INVITATION TO SEE HIM.

GRAB

SNEER

YOU WILL COME WITH ME TO SEE FATHER.

AND TELL HIM TO ENJOY HIS POWER IN CENTRAL CITY WHILE HE STILL CAN...

GOT THAT ?

GIVE HIM THIS MES-SAGE...

SLAVE NUMBER TWENTY-THREE WILL BE VISITING HIM QUITE SOON.

TCH!

YES.

TMP TMP TMP TMP

I'LL BE WAITING..

GWOON GWOON GWOON

...VON HOHEN-HEIM.

YES.

DIS-TURBING THINGS— NOT FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE.

DID YOU FIND ANY-THING?

TMP TMP TMP !

HE'S BACK!

BZZT

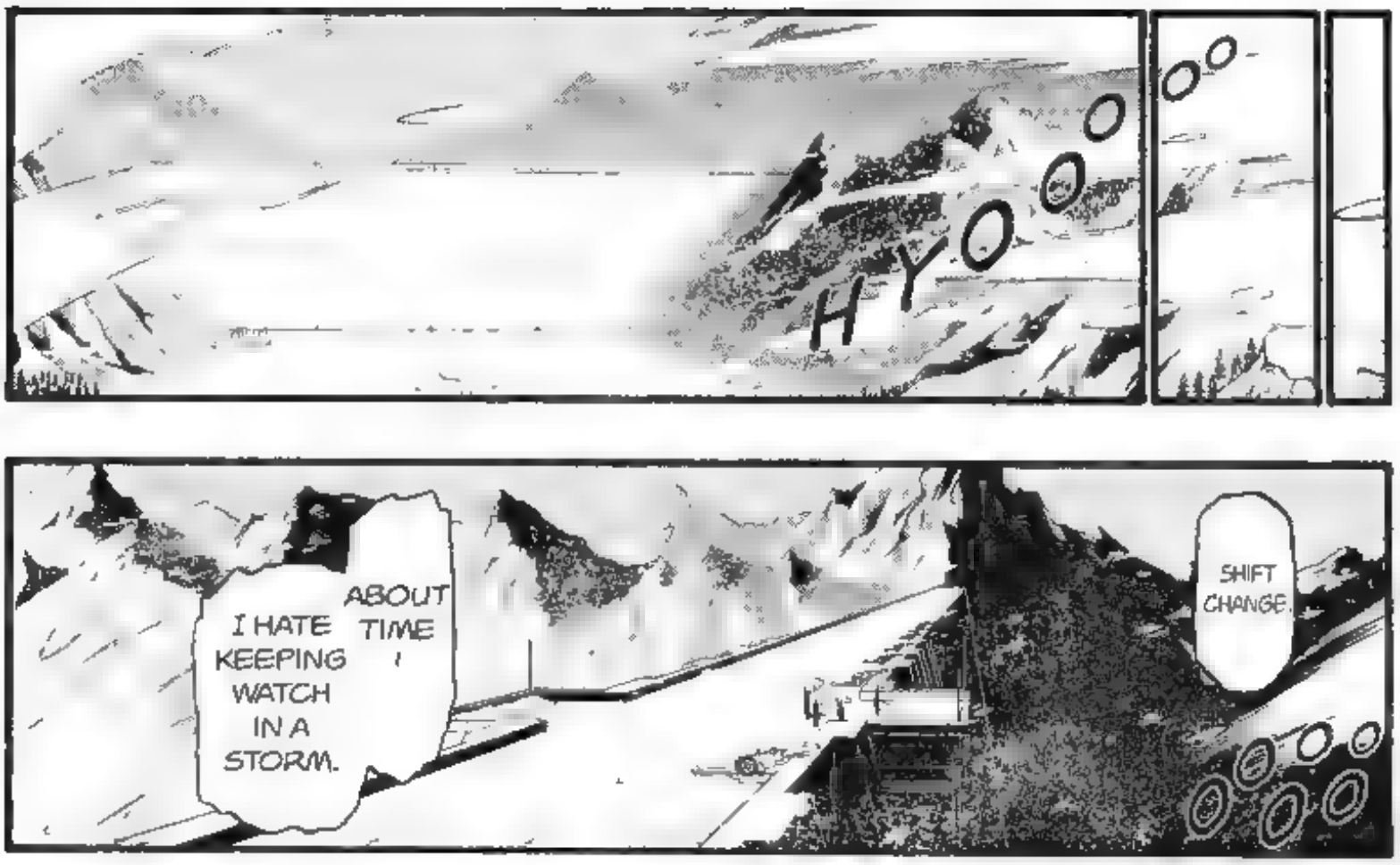
PLEASE... TELL PEOPLE NOT TO GO IN THERE. IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS.

FZT BZT FSH

..DE-LIVERING.. A DECLARA-TION OF WAR.

WELL...

WHAT WERE YOU DOING BACK THERE?


HYOOO
I HATE KEEPING WATCH IN A STORM.
ABOUT TIME!
SHIFT CHANGE.
SHIMMER
C'MON THEN. LET'S LEAVE THIS AWFUL POST AND GET SOME JUST AS AWFUL COFFEE!
YOU BET...
OH CRAP...
IT CAN'T BE...
HUH?

RMBL RMBL

RMBL

HE'S GOING TO USE DRACHMA TROOPS INSTEAD OF BRIGGS TROOPS TO BRING BLOODSHED TO THIS LAND.

HE'S REALLY DONE IT THIS TIME..

...

DRACHMA SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT FT. BRIGGS IS *VIRTUALLY IMPREGNABLE.*

WHY ATTACK NOW, SIR?

DRACHMA HAS DECLARED WAR AND IS ADVANCING FROM THE NORTH!!

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

D-D...

RMBL

RMBL

RMBL

HOW FORTUNATE FOR US THAT THE "NORTHERN WALL OF BRIGGS" IS ABSENT FROM THE FORT.

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, MR. KIMBLEE?

LONG HAVE WE SOUGHT TO BREACH THE WALLS OF BRIGGS—TODAY THAT DREAM WILL COME TRUE

AMESTRIS IS EXHAUSTED FROM FIGHTING WARS IN THE SOUTH AND THE WEST.

HEH HEH..

WHEN THE BATTLE BEGINS, THEIR BETRAYAL WILL UN-DOUBTEDLY CAUSE GREAT CONFUSION.

TRMP TRMP

IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF OUR MEN ARE INSIDE THE FORT.

TMP TMP TMP TMP

RMBL

RMBL

RMBL

RMBL

RMBL

LET'S GIVE THEM A GRAND FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

NOW, IT'S TIME TO DELIVER OUR DECLARATION OF WAR.

LIKE I TOLD YOU...

FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP

AND LIKE I TOLD YOU... THAT'S WHAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND!!

THE PURIFICATION ARTS ARE ALL ABOUT READING THE FLOW OF THE DRAGON'S PULSE!!

THANK YOU FOR TAKING US IN.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

YOU'RE ISHBALAN, LIKE US.

I CAN'T DO IT!!

CLEAR YOUR MIND..

READY, SET, GO!

I NEED MORE PRACTICAL DIREC-TIONS!!

YOU CAN!! JUST **FOCUS**!!

THE DOCTOR'S TREATING US FREE OF CHARGE...SO WE'RE EVEN.

HE'S GETTING FOOD SUPPLIES.

SOME-ONE ELSE NEEDS TO TAKE A TURN WITH THESE KIDS!

DAMN IT! WHERE'S ZANPANO ?!

GRRR

AND WE GOT ANOTHER PLAYMATE FOR THE KIDS.

TUG TUG

GYAAAAAA!

NO... NOT THE HAIR !!

...AND A MAN PRESUMED TO BE DR. MARCOH ARE HIDING IN THE SLUMS OF THE NORTHERN TOWN OF ASBEC.

SCAR...

BE PATIENT... HE'LL BE BACK SOON WITH SOME GOOD FOOD.

MY NAME IS ZAN-PANO.

THAT'S RIGHT...

I'M KIM-BLEE'S SUBOR-DINATE.

To Be Continued in Fullmetal Alchemist Volume 20!

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 19

SPECIAL THANKS...

JUN TOHKO
NONO
MASASHI MIZUTANI
COUPON
NORIKO TSUBOTA
HARUHI NAKAMURA
MICHIKO SHISHIDO
KEI TAKANAMAZU
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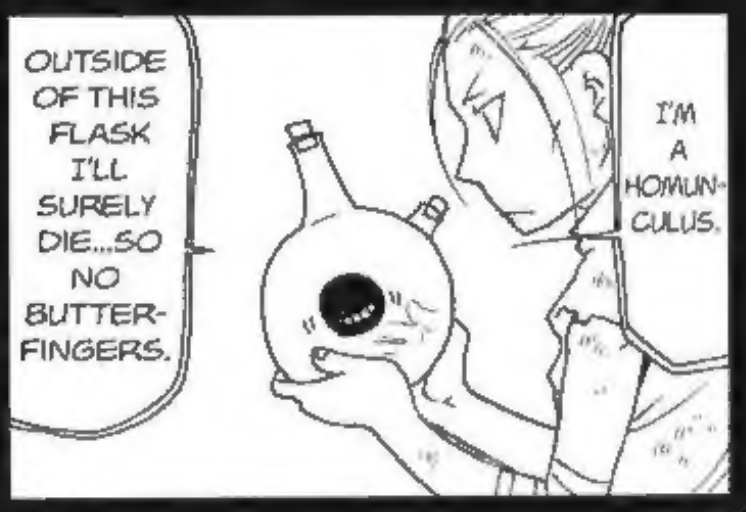
AND YOU!!

AN ENDANGERED SPECIES



A Field Guide to Briggs' Wildlife

Digital High Definition
Analog

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 19

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